

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, July 3, 2014

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Tributes are paid to boss of policing

TRIBUTES have poured in for West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones, who died suddenly this week, as it emerged a temporary replacement will be appointed within days.

Councillors and lay members of the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel are to meet to choose an interim commissioner following Mr Jones' death on Monday at the age of 59.

Inspiration

A likely candidate to fill the post until the required by-election would be Mr Jones' deputy, Yvonne Mosquito. She fought back tears on Tuesday as she said: "I do not think anybody could be another Bob Jones. He was quite unique and I feel incredibly privileged to have worked alongside him. He was an inspiration to me."

Tributes have been made to the former Wolverhampton Labour councillor, who died in his sleep.

Home Secretary Theresa May said: "Bob showed a great passion for serving the people of the West Midlands and a strong belief in the police." Labour Party leader Ed Miliband said: "He was a dedicated public servant, who cared deeply about his local community."

Tears — See page 3

Jason in wild west musical

AUSSIE heartthrob Jason Donovan is back treading the boards in the West Midlands in wild west musical Annie Get Your Gun.

The former Neighbours star takes the role of Frank Butler in a new production of Irving Berlin's 1946 classic that is running at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre until Saturday.

The 46-year-old actor, who was a major pop star in the 1980s, will be joined by leading lady Emma Williams as Annie and Norman Pace as Buffalo Bill.

TWO HELD AFTER BODY IS FOUND

Report by Lee Watton and Adam Grinsell

POLICE have been given extra time to question two people arrested on suspicion of murder after police searching for a missing Halesowen pensioner found a body at her house.

Police revealed that Cynthia Beamond, aged 80, who had been missing since Friday, died as a result of head injuries sustained in a violent attack.

After two days of extensive searches by police and members of the public her body was discovered by police at her Juliet Road home on Sunday evening.

The two people arrested are a 32-year-old man and a 23-year-old woman. After being given more time to question the pair, the police will today have to charge or release them. It is understood that one of them may have been known to the pensioner, although not a family member.

Searched

A blue police tent was outside Mrs Beamond's semi-detached property with a cordon around it. A police car was parked in the small cul-de-sac.

Detective Superintendent Tim Bacon said: "Mrs Beamond's property has been searched by specialist officers in a bid to preserve as much evidence as possible."

"We continue to support Cynthia's family at this time and they have been kept fully updated of these developments."

The body was discovered two days after police initially searched the house.

In a press conference on Monday investigating officer Detective Superintendent Mark Payne said that was because officers would not have been able initially to find her body in a visual search.

He said: "Whoever killed Cynthia went to significant lengths to hide her body."

"We were looking for her and her car hoping to find her alive. Officers did originally walk through her house and did try to find Cynthia but it wouldn't have been possible to visually see her body."

"We started a thorough and meticulous search of her house and that has uncovered Cynthia in a location inside the house."

DS Payne would not confirm where in the house her body was found as that was currently 'only known to her murderer'.

DS Payne said the pensioner was 'a vibrant, lively lady who led a really full life'.



A forensics officer walks to the house in Juliet Road where Mrs Beamond's body was found



Victim Cynthia Beamond, aged 80

Mrs Beamond was last seen in Halesowen on Friday morning on a visit to her hairdresser and was reported missing later that day by her family.

Officers are still searching for Mrs Beamond's car, a silver Vauxhall Astra 1.6 with the registration T419 MDA.

A 24-inch John Lewis television is also missing from her home, along with a red HP laptop, and officers would like to hear from anyone who might have been offered these items for sale.

Residents in Juliet Road said Mrs Beamond was a keen charity worker and churchgoer. She leaves two daughters and grandchildren, who are being looked after by specially-trained police officers. Her death has left her neighbours and the wider community shocked.

Massive financial boost for the arts

A MULTI-MILLION pound arts investment has been welcomed by Black Country attraction bosses as a huge boost for the area.

The cash has been awarded to seven attractions and organisations in the Black Country by the Arts Council for the next three years.

The Black Country Living Museum in Dudley will receive £2,658,000 and it is the first year the venue has secured such funding.

Training

It is expected to be used to improve exhibitions as well as support workforce training, provide new volunteering opportunities and support apprenticeships.

Andrew Lovett, director and chief executive of the museum, said: "I look forward to working closely with the Arts Council to maximise its benefit, not just over the three-year period, but stretching well beyond that."

Meanwhile, £430,490 is heading to West Bromwich-based Black Country Touring, up from £429,083, to develop its work with local communities and Sandwell-based Multistory is to get £421,054, up from £422,435.

Group fight waste plant

A CAMPAIGN to stop a waste plant opening has been stepped up by concerned residents.

A consultation by the Environment Agency on Clean Power's application for a permit to run the site off Moor Street in Brierley Hill has been extended to July 20.

The Say No To The Waste Site (SNOW) has launched a campaign called 20 Days To Fight The Permit. The site would process up to 195,000 tonnes of waste a year.

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Free advice on housing worries

RESIDENTS are being offered free housing advice thanks to a new support service.

Borough residents who need help to maintain their independence are being urged to use Dudley Council's drop in service which provides advice and guidance on issues including finance, benefits and completing forms.

The sessions will be held from at

Butterfield Court, Short Street, on Tuesdays from 10am until noon.

The service also provides the opportunity to speak to someone about their problems in an informal setting and residents can make an appointment or simply drop by.

Housing chief Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "This service is open to anyone living in the borough who fears that they may be threatened

with homelessness by losing their tenancy. The service is free."

In Dudley sessions offering help on a range of issues from home security to mental health are held on Tuesdays from 1.30pm to 3.30pm at Compton Court, Baptist End Road, or at Coseley Childrens Centre on Wednesdays from 1.30pm until 3.30pm. In Halesowen sessions are held at the Hope Centre on Wednes-

days from 10am until noon and in Brierley Hill at Yeovil Court on Thursdays from 10am to noon.

Drop in sessions are held at Stourbridge Library on alternative Thursdays from 1.30pm to 3.30pm and in Bromley Children's Centre in Pensnett on Fridays from 10am to noon.

Call Dudley Council on 01384 812504 for further details.

Work starts on extra car parking at station

The car's the star for Alisha



Dream come true — Alisha Jarrett got a ride in a £150,000 Aston Martin V12 Rapide

A CAR crazy youngster's wish has been granted after she got a ride in a £100,000 Aston Martin.

Holly Hall Academy pupil Alisha Jarrett had a huge shock at school on Thursday of last week when she walked outside to see the Aston Martin V12 Rapide, which has a top speed of 155mph.

When she was told she was going for a ride, the 14-year-old, who gets her love of cars from her grandad and mechanic uncle, burst into tears. She said: "I always wanted

to know what it would feel like to go in one. "My grandad always told me it was really good, and my uncle told me what a good car it was. It was amazing, I really enjoyed it. Just the speed of it, and how the inside was different to any normal car."

The experience was organised by the Russell's Hall Wishing Well project, after she told them her dream while in the hospital with a burst appendix in April.

Alisha, from Uplands Road, took best friend Emily Smith, 14, and sister Ellie, 10,

WORK has started on a £1.1m project to double the size of the park and ride car park at Rowley Regis railway station.

The number of spaces will increase from around 382 to more than 700. The extension to the station, which serves the Birmingham to Worcester line, follows a rise in demand for the service, which is used by thousands of people each working day.

Councillor Roger Horton, who oversees rail for Centro, said: "We have been fighting for this for some time and it's good to see work has begun. This is brilliant news for the people of Sandwell and Dudley that use this site on a regular basis to go to and from work or travel around the West Midlands.

"At Rowley Regis station we have seen the number of people travelling on trains in the morning AM peak overtake the number of people on buses.

Transport

"While this is still lower than the number of car journeys, it is taking people from behind the wheel and putting them onto public transport."

Sandwell Council's planning committee approved the scheme, from transport authority Centro, in June last year. The extra parking space is being constructed on disused land next to the current car park.

The extension will be lit by low-energy lighting and there will be electric vehicle charging points and CCTV cameras for safety.

There will also be help points linked to the Network Safety and Security Centre and a cycle hub with capacity for the secure storage of up to 30 bikes.

Centro and its partners have invested more than £15 million in park and ride facilities since 1997.

Centro are also considering £60 parking fines for inconsiderate parking.

Centro are also considering £60 parking fines for inconsiderate parking.

Sponsorship

So far more than 3,100 have registered to take part in one of the two 5K events, at 10.30am or 3pm. There are more than 400 spaces left to fill for the 3pm race.

Sarah Southall, a spokeswoman for Race for Life said: "We are still doing everything we can do to recruit more ladies to take part and raise sponsorship so that we can bring forward the day when all cancers are cured."

The race will start at the front of Himley Hall and the route will pass the lake.

It costs £14.99 for women over 16 to take part and £10 for children. Kids under six go free.

To register and for more information o call 0300 123 0770 or visit raceforlife.cancerresearchuk.org

Museum of rock in search for new home

A ROCK music exhibition which highlighted Birmingham and the Black Country as the home of heavy metal is bidding for a permanent home.

The Home of Metal show was based at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery in summer 2011 and attracted more than 200,000 visitors.

It is now looking to secure National Lottery funding to allow it to set up a permanent home and organisers are calling on people of the West Midlands to get behind the cause.

The exhibition was based at the gallery but toured venues in the Black Country, showcasing the impact Black Sabbath, Judas Priest and other homegrown rock legends on the global music industry.

It featured artefacts such as Judas Priest stage costumes and Black Sabbath star Tony Iommi's guitar.

The exhibition is one of six heritage projects competing for a National Lottery grant in a public vote.

The exhibition organised by Capsule art group was launched by Tony Iommi and is said to have generated £2.7 million. To vote visit www.lotterygoodcauses.org.uk/project/home-metal

Play on Black Country tour

A DRAMA company will be touring their play after getting Arts Council backing.

The play by Drama And Some community interest company, called Black Country Blues, is a comedy about families from different cultures against a backdrop of recession and unemployment in the 1980s.

Tipton-based Drama And Some has been given Arts Council funding to tour the play and will be visiting venues in Walsall, West Bromwich, Smethwick, Wolverhampton and Tipton between July 12 and 18. See www.dramaandsome.com

Actors are needed

A THEATRE society needs more actors to get involved in a stage production of a popular TV comedy. Charlemont Drama Society stages The Vicar of Dibley in West Bromwich in October. First reading is on Tuesday at Penny Hill Primary School. Call 07704 612985.

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£1.5m bid to further transform Castle Hill

TOURISM chiefs are bidding for cash to fund a £1.5 million scheme to further transform Dudley's Castle Hill as a heritage attraction.

Bosses are hoping to start work on the creation of a new schools reception for the Black Country Living Museum plus pedestrian route linking the museum and zoo.

A bid for £905,000 from the European Regional Development Fund has already been submitted for the project.

If approved, the rest of the cash will be made up by £200,000 from Dudley Zoo, £268,000 from the Black Country Living Museum and £150,000 from Dudley Council.

New signs, seats and message boards will be placed on roads around Castle Hill as part of the scheme.

Part of the cash would also be used for the Black Country Steam Project at the museum. This would bring back items of industrial machinery into working use. There would also be improvements to the Racecourse Colliery site, the steam hammer at the Anchor Forge and the purchase of a steam tractor.

The bid will be discussed by councillors today.

Quad bike rider 'lucky'

A TEENAGER had a lucky escape in Dudley after coming off a quad bike, which rolled over four times before landing on him.

Paramedics say he could easily have been killed because he wasn't wearing a helmet.

The crash happened in Lodge Crescent, Netherton, at 4.45pm on Thursday, June 26. Callers who dialled 999 described the quad bike rolling over and landing on the rider.

Whilst a helmet is not a legal requirement for quad bike riders, the ambulance service say riders should wear protective clothing.

Celebration ale

BLACK Country Ales is brewing a special beer to mark Black Country Day later this month.

Its 4.2 per cent strength Chain Ale, brewed at its Upper Gornal brewery, will be on sale only in its own pubs from now until Black Country Day, July 14.

Drug scheme something to be sniffed at



Pauline Hadley

CANNABIS-SCENTED 'scratch and sniff' cards will again be distributed around the West Midlands as a drive to encourage people to report drug growers to the police.

Crime-fighting charity Crimestoppers have announced it would be repeating the campaign, which was first trialled last year.

Crimestoppers and police will be distributing the cards to educate the public about the signs of cannabis farming in their neighbourhoods, and in particular the distinctive

smell of cannabis. The charity said criminal gangs often rented flats or suburban houses, bringing with them serious crimes such as gun crime, electricity theft and human trafficking.

Pauline Hadley, Crimestoppers' regional manager for West Midlands and Staffordshire said: "There are mothers and neighbours who know what's going on in their areas and feel they cannot tell anyone."

"We are giving people the chance to give information to the charity

about serious organised criminals who are making their lives hell.

"They can call us without anyone knowing who they are. Their call is not even recorded anywhere including on their own phone bills."

Crimestoppers said last year's campaign led to a 28 per cent increase in the amount of information received in its first month.

Shortly after last year's campaign was launched, information was received which resulted in plants with a street value of more than £1

million being seized. The charity stressed that the 'scratch and sniff' cards will not contain any of the active ingredients of cannabis.

The campaign has been backed by a number of energy companies, landlords' bodies, Neighbourhood Watch groups, and the Chief Fire Officers Association.

Roger Critchell of Crimestoppers said: "The scratch and sniff cards were well received last year, a fact that was supported by the increase in information we received."

Tears as police staff told of commissioner's death

POLICE staff were in tears on Tuesday as they were informed of the sudden death of Bob Jones, hours before he was due to sign a vital contract on the future of West Midlands Police.

Politicians and workers have been left devastated after the Police and Crime Commissioner passed away in his sleep on Monday night, aged 59.

The news was broken to them at the office of Mr Jones's staff in Lloyd House - the West Midlands Police Headquarters in Birmingham City Centre, just minutes before the scheduled start of the Strategic Police and Crime Board meeting he was due to chair.

Thirty minutes before the 10am start his staff were still frantically trying to find where he was. The meeting was scrapped just moments before it should have begun.

People were told the move was the result of 'unforeseen circumstances'. Later on Tuesday, Mr Jones had been due to sign a contract with the company chosen to help transform West Midlands Police. The Innovation and Integration Partner - still to be publicly revealed - was chosen after a vetting process has taken several months.

Modernise

It will help the force develop a new modelling model and to look at how technology can be used to innovate and modernise in services and processes.

The process to find the best candidate was launched in July last year.

Chief Constable Chris Sims has said the decision to involve a private company in the running of the force could be one of the most revolutionary in British policing.

Tributes have since been pouring in for Mr Jones, who was elected the first West Midlands PCC in 2012. He was one of a new wave of elected police commissioners created all over the country by David Cameron to make forces more accountable to the public.

The elections in November 2012 attracted a very low turnout - just 15 per cent on average across the country. But Mr Jones, who had been a Labour councillor in Wolverhampton for more than 30 years, was opposed to the role existing at all, be-



Commissioner Bob Jones with Chief Supt Stuart Johnson at Brierley Hill police in 2013

lieving that commissioners had fewer tools to hold forces to account than the old police authorities they replaced.

His Conservative opposite number in Staffordshire, PCC Matthew Ellis, said: "Although we didn't share the same philosophies, I liked Bob very much as a person and will miss the banter we had on so many occasions."

"He was never afraid to speak his mind, even if this sometimes caused him to be in

a minority of one among PCCs. The critical area where Bob made a significant difference in the last 18 months was in fundamentally changing and improving the way the police engaged with local people.

"My thoughts are with Bob's family, friends and colleagues today."

Halesowen & Rowley Regis MP James Morris said: "Despite our many political disagreements, I will always remember the important work that Bob did in making

sure that our local police force takes mental health seriously - whether among victims, offenders or police officers and staff."

"He was genuinely committed to this work and will be missed by the many people who have benefited from the changes he helped to implement."

"My thoughts and prayers are with his wife and family and hope that they can take some comfort from his achievements and the many lives he touched."

Councillor John Rowley, who represents the Blakenhall ward in Wolverhampton where Mr Jones was also previously a councillor, said: "This is a huge loss to everybody."

"Bob was dedicated to this city and to Blakenhall for decades. He was a tremendous campaigner and never tired of knocking on doors, meeting residents and working to make their lives better."

"He was unrivalled in his work rate."

"This is a tragedy for the whole city and the West Midlands. And it is a tragedy for Bob's family."

Services

Mr Jones had been on the former West Midlands Police Authority from 1986 until its abolition in 2012, in 2010 he was awarded a CBE for his services to policing.

MP for Warley John Spellar said: "Bob, having been a previous chairman of the police authority, knew policing and had great doubts about this new post, but thought it was important that someone who knew the job did it."

"He was undoubtedly the best police commissioner in the country, both for his knowledge, and for getting out into the community and helping to tackle crime."

"He had been a good councillor and committee chairman, but was an outstanding commissioner."

Sandwell Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper, who chairs the West Midlands Police and Crime Panel and work closely with Mr Jones, has paid tribute to his 'good friend'.

He said: "This is devastating news. Bob was making a huge difference as the region's first Police and Crime Commissioner and his untimely death is an absolute tragedy."

"He was a good friend and colleague, who was always down to earth, but above all he had a keen sense of public duty."

NEWS in brief

School second in national contest

PUPILS from Cradley have come second in the junior final of a national first aid competition.

Pupils at Colley Lane Primary School were runners-up in the 2014 St John Ambulance National Schools' First Aid Competition.

The competition, which was held at Drayton Manor near Tamworth, tested the first aid skills of 18 teams of students from junior and secondary schools from across the country.

Bishop ordains a new deacon

A DEACON has been ordained at Worcester Cathedral to serve Cradley.

The Bishop of Worcester, assisted by the Bishop of Dudley, presided as Sarah Brush from the Halas Team in Halesowen was ordained deacon. She has been the youth officer for the Diocese of Worcester for six years. She has also been a university lecturer in Latin and Medieval History.

he said: "I'm now very much looking forward to expanding my ministry."

Visit by children from Chernobyl

A GROUP of children from Belarus visited Halesowen College to take part in a range of activities.

The youngsters are in the Black Country for a month to have a break from the ongoing radiation in their region caused by the Chernobyl nuclear power plant disaster in 1986. Students arranged the fun day which involved manicures, face painting and dance activities.

Sea cadets run pub charity day

MEMBERS of Sandwell Sea Cadets are planning a charity day being held at the Sir Robert Peel pub, in Birmingham Road, Blackheath, on Saturday, July 12.

Raffles, prize giveaways and games will be taking place from 1pm as part of the fun day, along with face painting and a barbecue.

Tour of the church

A GARDEN party will be held at St Mark's Church in Pensnett from 1pm on Saturday. The event will include a guided tour around the church and its grounds by historian and writer Stephen Cope.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



DAVID Blunkett says the News of the World hacking his voicemails brought him close to a breakdown. He talks bitterly of suspicion, betrayal and the souring of relationships. Reality check, please. When a high-profile Home Secretary has a torrid affair with another man's wife, how does he think it's going to end? If mobile phones had not been invented, hacking was unknown and Rupert Murdoch had never been born, Blunkett's own folly would still have brought him crashing down.

□□□□□□□□

IN December last year I wrote this about the female puppets in the Wonga TV adverts: "The moment they appeared, I found myself reminded of those evil old bags who were rounded up in Germany after the war and exposed as concentration-camp guards." There is something unpleasant about the whole payday-loan industry. Now it is revealed that Wonga sent thousands of letters threatening legal action to customers in arrears - from fake legal firms. Because this happened before the Financial Conduct Authority took over the regulation of payday lenders, it is unable to fine Wonga. But what about natural justice and the criminal law? If a back-street loan shark threatened legal action by bogus law firms wouldn't he be charged with obtaining money by deception? What's sauce for the shark is surely sauce for Wonga.

□□□□□□□□

POLICE under Pressure (BBC2) is supposed to show how cops in Sheffield are coping with the wicked Tory budget cuts. What it actually tells us is that money is not the problem. The real issue is a police force (sorry, service) which commands zero respect and has absolutely no authority on the streets. You could double the police budget tomorrow and the underclass kids, all fully aware of their human rights, would still ignore the curfew and run rings around the bobbies. When it comes to clearing the streets and keeping the peace, nothing works quite like the Saudi Arabian system of a few hundred fit young religious police armed with long canes. It's called the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, and nobody messes with it.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Energy giant closes Black Country offices

ENERGY giant Npower has shut two of its Black Country office at the cost of more than 250 jobs.

The doors closed at the Birchfield House and Quayside House offices in Oldbury on Friday following an announcement last year that the company would be restructuring its customer services, including outsourcing work to India.

by Simon Stone

The decision to close the Birchfield House office and move staff to its neighbouring office Birch House, has meant the loss of 150 jobs. The company's Quayside House office, which employed 150, has also shut.

Redundant

Fifty staff from across the two sites have been reemployed across the business but more than 250 people were made redundant.

The job losses come after the energy supplier, owned by Germany's RWE, decided to close centres across the country, choosing to outsource much of its customer service and back office functions to Capita and Tata Consultancy Services.

But the firm has assured customers that call centres will remain in the UK.

Those losing jobs in Oldbury had an official leaving date of June 30, but bosses at the Birchfield House branch left staff finish at 1.30pm on Friday and or-

ganised a party for employees. John Pepper, site leader at Birchfield House, said: "The leaving do is a very positive experience for staff, given the circumstances. It is emotional but we wanted to give staff the opportunity to spend time together away from the office. The company has funded the party as a good will gesture and a way to thank the staff for all they have done under the difficult circumstances."

Lee Wilkes, customer account manager across all three of the sites, added: "There is a small percentage of people who have been retained with internal positions but roughly 250 people have lost their jobs."

Raj Aujla, 38, from Sutton Coldfield, started with the company 17 years ago and has been made redundant. She said: "I am sad to be leaving but work has been fantastic. Since April they have been consistent with advice and support."

Charity celebrates half century



Endurance runner Blind Dave Heeley, aged 52

A TRANSPORT charity is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a funday.

Prolific fundraiser Blind Dave will attend the Community Transport event in Sandwell, as well as the mayor of the borough, Councillor Derek Rowley and ex-West Brom player Daryl Burgess.

The charity helps vulnerable people access services with an 80-strong fleet of minibuses and vans. It has sites across the Black Country, including Netherton, Bilston and Wednesfield.

Its Great Bridge branch in Great Bridge Street, will host the anniversary on July 12 from 11am to 3pm.

Activities will include face painting, a bouncy castle and a martial arts display by Tipton Tigers. Refreshments including Caribbean food will be on offer, while raffle prizes include hamper, £50 vouchers and a signed West Brom shirt, football and tour of The Hawthorns.

Community Transport has helped seven million people in the West Midlands and North during its first 50 years.

Accident verdict on death of van driver

A GREAT grandfather from the Black Country killed when the van he was driving was involved in a collision with a tanker died as a result of an accident, a coroner has ruled.

Robert Coulson, aged 71, was airlifted to hospital following the crash on the A449 Worcester Road in Kidderminster in February.

Mr Coulson, who lived in Coppice Lane, Quarry Bank, was in a white Citroen Nemo van that was involved in a collision with a DAF tanker near the Mare and Colt at 11.40am on February 24.

His van was wedged under the front of the tanker and he needed to be freed from fire crews before being taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. He died shortly after arrival at the hospital.

At an inquest at Stourport Coroners Court last week, a verdict of accidental death was recorded.

Mr Coulson, who lived with his wife of 34 years Sheila and was known to his family as Bob, worked as a part-time delivery driver at JS Optical Ltd in the Hoo Farm industrial estate, near Kidderminster.

Before retirement Kinner-born Mr Coulson, a former Oldswinford Hospital School pupil, had worked at the Eaton factory in Brierley Hill.

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21st - 24th	YORKSHIRE, ABBEYS & GARDENS	£275.00
28th-1st Aug	NORTH DEVON & DOC MARTIN COUNTRY	£309.50
AUGUST		
2nd - 3rd	BLETCHLEY PARK & WAR ROOMS	£129.50
2nd - 7th	HISTORY OF THE SEAS	£495.00
4th - 7th	CONSTABLE COUNTRY	£245.00
4th - 8th	TORQUAY	£309.50
9th - 10th	SETTLE-CARLISLE RAILWAY	£129.50
11th - 15th	ROYAL HIGHLAND SAFARI	£369.50
18th - 22nd	DOC MARTIN COUNTRY	£319.50
24th - 28th	CHARMING SIDMOUTH	£435.00
25th - 28th	NORTHUMBRIA & HOLY ISLAND	£285.00
25th - 29th	ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT	£349.50
30th - 31st	BUCKINGHAM PALACE WEEKEND	£149.50
30th-6th Sept	ISLE OF WIGHT & SANDOWN	£559.50
SEPTEMBER		
1st - 5th	WEYMOUTH & DELIGHTFUL DORSET	£319.50
6th - 7th	SOMERSET STEAM RAILWAY	£129.50
7th - 10th	TALL SHIPS RACE AT GREENWICH	£239.50
8th - 12th	SCARBOROUGH & YORKSHIRE MOORS	£349.50
8th - 12th	LLANDUDNO & CONWY	£335.00
13th - 14th	ROYAL SANDRINGHAM HOUSE	£119.50
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JULY	Ad	OAP
Tue 8th	CARDIFF & DYFFRYN GARDENS (NT)	£32.50 £31.00
Wed 9th	ROMAN CITY OF BATH	£26.00 £25.00
Wed 9th	BROUGHTON CASTLE & BANBURY	£35.00 £33.50
Fri 11th	MYSTERY & 2 COURSE LUNCH	£35.00 £32.50
Sat 12th	HAMPTON COURT FLOWER SHOW	£55.00 £52.50
Thu 17th	LLANDUDNO, SEASIDE & SEA AIR	£26.00 £25.00
Fri 18th	PORTMEIRION VILLAGE	£35.00 £34.00
Sat 19th	WELSH HIGHLAND STEAM RAILWAY	£41.00 £39.50
Sat 19th	KENWOOD HOUSE, LONDON (EH)	£27.00 £26.00
Sun 20th	BRISTOL HARBOUR FESTIVAL	£26.00 £25.00
Mon 21st	ELTHAM PALACE & GARDENS (EH)	£37.50 £36.00
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Mon 28th	CASTLE COMBE & LACOCK ABBEY (NT)	£37.50 £36.50
Tue 29th	BLETCHLEY PARK	£37.50 £36.00
Wed 30th	SAVILL & VALLEY GARDENS, WINDSOR	£35.00 £33.50
Thu 31st	GLOUCESTER DOCKS	£25.00 £24.00
AUGUST	Ad	OAP
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NEWS
in brief

Man, 42, is on murder charge

A MAN has been charged with the murder of his ex-partner at their Birmingham home.

Mother Luan Leigh, 42, was pronounced dead at the family property on Woodlands Farm Road, Pype Hayes, in the Erdington area on Sunday.

Police were called to the address at 7.25am where a 15-year-old boy was found with a stab injury to his chest and a nine-year-old girl was treated for strangulation injuries.

Police confirmed they have charged suspect Andrew Leigh, 42, from Sutton Coldfield with murdering his ex-partner and attempting to murder their two children.

Leigh was due to appear at Birmingham Magistrates Court yesterday.

Bishop backing town credit union

THE Bishop of Dudley says he is backing alternative 'affordable' finance services by opening an account at the town's credit union.

The Rt Revd Graham Usher will visit Kiosk & Crystal Credit Union in New Street on Monday. It follows a commitment by the Church of England to support credit unions as an alternative to high interest loan firms.

The Rt Revd Usher said: "Credit Unions can provide a real alternative for people in need of affordable financial services."

£1m brook scheme is to prevent flooding

A £1.4 million project to prevent a brook in the Black Country from overflowing and flooding nearby homes has been submitted by council bosses.

Work is proposed to strengthen the Cradley Forge embankment on Mousesweet Brook.

Cash to fund the Dudley Council scheme has been secured from DEFRA and the Environment Agency.

Culvert

The council says the existing 165ft long small diameter brick culvert, which runs through the embankment, is failing due to its poor condition posing a serious threat to public safety. They say it often blocked by rubbish.

Work would be carried out to replace it with a larger culvert. This section of the brook runs close to its confluence with the River Stour near Woodland Avenue, Cradley.

Chief executive John Polychronakis said: "The council has been awarded £1.4m by DEFRA and the Environment Agency to replace the existing culvert with a much larger culvert in order to remove the serious threat to public safety from a risk of a major embankment failure."

Mousesweet Brook runs through the 4.3-hectare Mousesweet Brook Local Nature Reserve.

Council to consider a ban on takeaways near schools

HOT food takeaways could be stopped from opening within a quarter mile of secondary schools in Dudley under new proposals.

Council officers are concerned about the impact on children's health, due to the often high levels of fat and sugar in food. Dudley Council is also considering limiting the number of hot food takeaways in shopping parades and town centres to protect communities from litter and parking problems.

Report by Alex Ross

The proposal to change planning laws is part of the council's development strategy which will go out for a nine-week public consultation starting this month.

New hot food takeaways proposed within 1,300 ft from secondary schools would be 'resisted' under the planned policy policy.

Planning approval would only be granted for takeaways in retail classified areas, such as the High Street in Dudley, when no more than five per cent of shops are takeaways. In town centres and parades no takeaways would be permitted next to one another.

Fish and chip shops, pizza and kebab shops, Chinese and Indian takeaways are all classed as hot food takeaways. Restaurants, pubs and nightclubs are not.

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for the environment, said greater controls were needed on the opening of takeaways. She unsuccessfully campaigned

against a new pizza shop opening the Hurst Green Shopping Centre in Halesowen last year.

She said: "We all know the connections with takeaways to the litter and rubbish which can be left. There does need to be some controls. But we all get hungry and desperate for a quick bite, we need to strike a balance."

Officers wrote that takeaways were more likely to have a detrimental impact on shopping centres due to their hours of operation. Impacts relate to increased incidence of litter, smells, anti-social behaviour, noise and traffic problems. The report stated: "The proliferation and proximity of hot food takeaways to schools is also of concern for health reasons and childhood obesity as the food they serve is often high in fat, salt and sugar."

Sandwell adopted a similar policy two years ago.

New centre is ready for first visitors



Museum services manager Jane Hanney outside the new Oak House Visitor Centre

STAFF are getting ready to open a new visitor centre following the restoration of two barns at Oak House Museum in West Bromwich.

The 17th century stable block and later 18th century barn in the grounds of the museum have been completely refitted to turn them into a visitor centre. Less than three years ago they were both a pile of crumbling bricks and rotting timber.

Sandwell Council, who own the house and grounds in Oak Road, stepped in with the Heritage Lottery Trust to find £1.4 million for the barns as part of a larger project.

The two buildings now feature a reception area, toilets, tearoom, offices and a large upstairs space for schools and community use.

Managers at the museum hope to use these new spaces to educate people about the house's history, in particular focusing on the living conditions and lifestyles of the owners and servants.

There will be a free family day on Sunday from noon to 4pm.

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IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

THREE things spring to mind following Luis Suarez's latest attempt at a bit of light cannibalism.

First of all, the behaviour exhibited by the Uruguayan striker during the World Cup in Brazil was truly disgraceful. The man clearly has problems, and such conduct has no place on a football field.

Secondly, if anybody seriously thinks a four-match ban is sufficient punishment for such outrageous behaviour – and remember this is the third time he has tried to feast on one of his opponents – then they are surely deluded. And thirdly – and most importantly of all, don't you just wish he had been able to do it before he put two past England?

□□□□□

MAYBE if Fifa is serious about helping Suarez with his, ahem, dietary problems, he ought to try taking a leaf out of Anita Smith's book. Literally.

Anita developed a taste for paperbacks while pregnant with her second child, and over the past 20 years she reckons she has munched her way through more than 6,000 books.

The 49-year-old former insurance clerk, presumably she had to give up work to devote more time to her book collection, says in the early days she used to gorge herself in the library, but her conscience got the better of her. Now she buys them in second-hand shops at 50p a throw.

Could you imagine Suarez in a bookshop or a library? He would never live it down.

□□□□□

ANDY Murray's mother Judith is said to be 'in the advanced stages' of negotiating a place on Strictly Come Dancing. Is it me, or does that sound like a medical condition?

□□□□□

INCIDENTALLY, I have already decided that this year's Wimbledon is the best yet.

What? Better than last year, when we had the first British winner since 1936? Better than when John McEnroe smashed up the drinks machine 30-odd years ago? Definitely.

Because this week, while a noisy section of the population will be screaming at their television sets like banshees about Tiger Jim or whoever it is these days, I will be basking in the 80 degree sunshine of Kotor harbour in Montenegro, with not a tennis racquet in sight. More strawberries?

□□□□□

BARCLAYS has developed a smart phone app which allows people to make payments into their account by photographing a cheque and sending it down the phone line to the bank.

Brilliant. Given the impenetrable security surrounding mobile phone devices, as exhibited by the recent phone-hacking scandal, what could possibly go wrong?



Councillor Judy Foster and archaeologist Kate Griffiths



17th Century pub grub – oyster shells found at the dig



Foundations of forgotten buildings have been found

Pub grub from 1600s found in market dig

Dudley's past has been uncovered during a revamp of the historic High Street. **TOM MASON reports**

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have unearthed the 17th Century equivalent of pub grub amid a set of long forgotten buildings on the site of Dudley's historic market

Shells of oysters – a popular and cheap fast food 400 years ago – are among the finds by a team of archaeologists working in the town centre as redevelopment work begins on the market area.

They have uncovered the two former market buildings, once known as Middle Row, which formerly occupied the central part of the market place in the town's High Street.

Walls

Not a lot is known about the buildings. Records and maps show their locations but do not hint at what they were used for, and the team were even unsure if any parts of the building still remained.

They have spent the last two weeks digging down into the soil to catalogue and photograph the buildings and the finds within before work is allowed to continue on the £6.7 million improvements to the market place.

Among the finds are a set of limestone walls that indicate the outline of the two original buildings, a brickwork floor and the markets' original 22 ft well.

Archaeologists, from SLR Consulting, have also found remnants of clay pipes, porcelain, broken glass bottles believed to have once held wine and hundreds of oyster shells – a fast food from the 17th to the 19th century when they were guzzled in their dozens.

Although it is unclear exactly what the



Archaeologist Richard Wolley is pictured at the Dudley market dig

original buildings in the market area were used for, it is believed at least one may have served as an alehouse.

Timothy Malim, technical director of SLR Consulting, said: "Middle Row would have been built as a speculative development within the old open medieval market.

"It would have been the vibrant centre of the community and the large quantities of oyster shells we are finding provides evidence for the kind of food that the alehouses could have been selling there.

"Such details provide a sense of place for the community and help bring history alive for shoppers in Dudley today."

Having carried out research, the team believes the buildings were built towards the end of the 1600s and were eventually demolished towards the middle of the 1800s.

Richard Woolley, a member of the investigating archaeological team, said: "People have been really intrigued by what we have found at the site.

"The building existed here for more

than 150 years but we don't have much written evidence to go on, apart from maps from the time and the building censuses."

He added: "This excavation has told us more about the market but there is still a lot of things that can't be answered.

"As part of the construction work the site will be levelled off and the majority of the structure will remain preserved under the new market."

The next phase of the work will see the toilet blocks next to the current excavation site being demolished.

These toilets, built in the 1980s, sit on top of an original underground Victorian toilet block that conservation officers at the council are hoping to locate.

Councillor Judy Foster, Dudley Council's cabinet member for regeneration, said: "I'm delighted that this exciting archaeological evidence has been uncovered as we undertake the redevelopment of the market place – linking our past, present and future together.

Patience

"It was always known that a programme of archaeological work would be required and this is a very exciting opportunity for us to learn more about the structures within the central part of the market place."

She added: "I would like to remind visitors and shoppers that the town is still very much open for business and thank everyone for their patience as we undertake the work."

To facilitate phase two of the scheme, the market traders have been relocated to temporary stalls on the other side of the fountain with the overspill at Stone Street Square.

Dudley town centre and the bus station remain open for business and all car parks around the town centre remain open.

The overall project is programmed for completion in the first half of 2015.

POLITICS

WITH
DANIEL
WAINWRIGHT



TONY Blair's three priorities were 'education, education, education'. But I'm not so sure he or anyone else has managed to achieve even the first one.

I'm sorry if it offends the many hard-working teachers who have made strides in terms of exam results. It's the politicians I'm talking about. In 2014 we still don't seem to have grasped what it is we're meant to be teaching our kids.

Dudley North MP Ian Austin brought the shadow education secretary Tristram Hunt to his patch. Mr Hunt, incidentally, is the historian and broadcaster turned politician who occasionally gets tipped as a possible replacement for Ed Miliband.

While they were touring the impressive Dudley College, talking to enthusiastic young people, learning everything from art to how to run the hospitality on aeroplanes, they were speaking about the need to boost skills.

"We've lost many of our traditional industrial jobs and I think the biggest question we face is how we bring new, well-paid and secure jobs to the Black Country to replace them," Mr Austin said. He's right, of course. So is Tristram Hunt when he says young people needed to accept that the days of well-paid, low skilled jobs were over.

Bilston steelworks shut in 1979. The Thatcher Government would not intervene in the decision of the British Steel Corporation. That was the biggest blow the town ever suffered. Here's where I start to despair about the situation today. I stumbled across the one and only article in the Express & Star's digital archive written by a young Boris Johnson, now Mayor of London, when he was a trainee reporter sent by The Times to cut his teeth in the real world. In it, Boris reports on a rising number of vacancies in the Black Country in 1988 and a lack of applicants.

"To a great extent the bosses are frustrated because the unemployed who come to them for jobs are short of essential skills," he wrote. "Many skills, such as those required in steel manufacture, have become outdated with the decline of heavy industry."

In those 26 years we have had five Prime Ministers, an overhaul of schools to create thousands of academies, the longest recession since the Second World War and we don't seem to be any further on. Boris Johnson could have been writing about 2014 as much as about 1988. But then the political elite are almost all Oxbridge educated and these days the route to Westminster is trod by researchers and special advisers.

About 90 MPs have only ever worked in politics. We can't expect them to know what kids need to learn to get a proper job in the real world, when so MPs many have never had one themselves.

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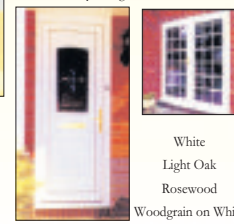
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Not impressed with out of hours service

I WOULD like to comment on your story printed in The Chronicle dated June 19, regarding the out of hours emergency service. Perhaps it is true that they took all those calls but were they all treated as I was?

I called 111 at 10pm and the person on duty took my particulars and told me that I would be visited by a doctor within six hours.

By four o'clock no doctor, so I telephoned 111 again and was answered by a male advisor that they had not got any record of my first call!

Staff should have better manners

RE Small High Street shops verses larger stores.

Recently requiring a small electrical item (a hair-dryer), I decided, as I am in Stourbridge most days, to purchase the item from a small shop.

Two months later — when the item was faulty — I returned only to be met by a young sales assistant who, at best, was not really interested and said to me: "What do you expect for that price?"

I was then persuaded to buy a more expensive product.

When I asked about the guarantee, the assistant was quite rude and, as I exited the shop upset, I heard him refer to me as 'err' to his colleague.

Therefore, in future, I shall be returning to the large stores where the staff are properly trained to deal with customers and provide a good service.

What do you think?
A CLEETON
Kingswinford

At 10pm I had a telephone call from a female advisor apologising for the delay. I said I would not accept her apology and would be reporting the matter.

At 11 o'clock I was so ill and exhausted I lay on my bed, at 2.15am my door bell rang and there stood a doctor who said he had just come on duty. He said it was disgusting that I had been treated this way, treated me and went.

Twentyhours! All my friends and relatives knew of this case and could not believe it.
NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

How did they pass the test?

I HAVE just returned home after a relatively short journey to the shops and on my way, one lady cut the corner turning right, two motorcyclists with 'L' plates overtook on the wrong side of the road — one going round a keep left bollard.

I also saw one driver on a mobile phone and another motorist failed to signal when turning right at a traffic island, not to mention several drivers looking for car park spaces and not looking out for other drivers and people on foot while they did so.

It is also a regular event to see drivers jumping a red light just to save a few seconds on their journey.

How on earth did these people pass their driving tests and why such bad manners on the road?

C GWILLIAMS
Brierley Hill

It's dust not acceptable

WITH the increased knowledge of crop growing, and therefore grass seed, isn't it disgusting that all of the courts at Wimbledon are showing excessive signs of wear?

The tournament started last Monday, and by the following day, here were signs that the grass at both ends (on all of the courts) was wearing thin.

Several players have had bad falls due to the 'dust', which surely wouldn't be apparent if the grass hadn't worn away?

P COLE
Kingswinford

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JOIN THE CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL AT NEW SQUARE

New Square shopping centre in West Bromwich will celebrate its first birthday this week with a carnival themed party – and you're all invited!

Taking place on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th July the two-day extravaganza will include live music, dancing, family games, surf simulator, face painting, street food and even a limbo competition!

Shoppers will be transported to the colourful Caribbean with performances from a live steel pan calypso band and the arrival of a Caribbean Food Shack – serving traditional street food such as Jerk Chicken and Curry Mutton – all served with rice and peas of course!

On Friday and Saturday Limbo performers will demonstrate their amazing flexibility while encouraging people to have a go themselves. Those brave enough to give it a go and get down low will be given a memento from the celebrations.

By Saturday the party will be in full swing with the arrival of the Carnival Dancers! New Square will resemble Rio as the professional dancers perform a number of show stopping routines around the shopping centre.

Also on Saturday there will be a range of fun activities for the family to enjoy, such as a surf simulator and juice bikes – you'll have to peddle hard to make your own Caribbean juice. Free face painting will also transform customers of all ages with bright colours,



feathers and jewels – completing the carnival experience!

New Square would like as many people as possible to get into the party spirit and is asking customers to take carnival themed selfies at the centre and post them on Facebook or Twitter using the hashtag #NewSquareSelfie – the best picture will win a £100 worth of Outfit vouchers.

Centre Manager Steve Burr said: "It's been a fantastic year for New Square and so it's only fitting that we celebrate in style and thank everyone in West Bromwich who has contributed to its success."

All activities are free and take place between 11am-4pm.

For more information visit:

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Tennis Girl dress set to fetch cheeky sum

A WHITE summer dress made famous in the iconic Tennis Girl poster of the 1970s, which was photographed on a Birmingham tennis court, is going to be auctioned in Stourbridge this weekend.

The unique handmade dress with lace trim was made famous in a photograph taken by the late Martin Elliott featuring his then-girlfriend Fiona Butler, now 55, married and living in Worcestershire.

Mrs Walker, who was 18 at the time and was living in Oldswinford, was captured in a cheeky pose walking away from the camera, with her right hand grasping a tennis racquet and her left on her backside.

The then-unknown commercial photographer Mr Elliott, a Stourbridge College student, sold the image licence to be re-printed in the 1977 Athena poster, and it went on to sell more than two million copies worldwide.

Appeal

Nick Davies, director at Fieldings Auctioneers, said he expected the memorable dress to have wide appeal.

Mrs Walker's pose has been imitated by many over the years including pop star Kylie Minogue, comedians Frank Skinner and Ricky Gervais, as well as Britain's Got Talent judge Amanda Holden.

The dress was made by Mrs Walker's friend Carol Knotts using materials bought from Stourbridge market.

Ms Knotts, now a barrister, said: "I used to get a monthly allowance from my parents and in order to make it stretch that little bit further, I made my own clothes."

"As I played tennis at the local club in Stourbridge, I bought a 'Simplicity'



Auctioneers hope the dress will fetch £2,000

pattern and made my own dress, complete with lace trim.

"Fiona was a friend and one day asked if she could borrow my dress and racquet. When she returned them, she gave me a big box of chocolates as a thank you."

"I've had the dress tucked away in a cupboard for all those years. It's a little piece of tennis history and I hope someone might find it an interesting novelty item to buy."

Mr Elliott split with Mrs Walker three years after taking the shot. She was never paid for the photo.



Fiona Walker posed 38 years ago

Mr Davies said: "There's a generation of people who will remember this poster very well, so it's a good time to put it up for auction."

"This is the most famous tennis dress of all time yet it has never graced a Centre Court. It's a piece of tennis memorabilia which we are sure will create plenty of interest – especially on Wimbledon ladies' finals day."

The dress, tennis racquet and two posters go under the hammer Fieldings Auctioneers in Stourbridge, from 10am on Saturday. The lot is estimated to fetch up to £2,000.

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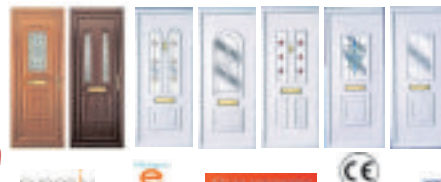
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Prolific thief sold stolen wheel trims on eBay

A PROLIFIC thief who stole hundreds of wheel trims and sold them on internet auction site eBay has been given a 30-month prison term.

Stuart Jones raked in around £3,000 from the massive haul of trims he stole from cars in the Dudley and Smethwick areas.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that the 36-year-old career criminal had already been hit with an anti-social behaviour order when he was involved in a high speed car chase with police on September 18 last year. He attempted to flee in his Renault Laguna but was eventually traced to his home in Victoria Road, Tipton.

Calls

Ms Sati Ruck, prosecuting, said officers searched his car and recovered 92 wheel trims, while a further 108 were found at his home. "Police had received a high number of calls that morning from members of the public complaining that their wheel trims had been stolen," said Ms Ruck.

Police went to Jones' address the following month and stopped him as he tried to pull off his drive in a Vauxhall Frontera. He was arrested after a search of his car revealed a metal industrial radiator, as well as bolt cutters and tools.

Ms Ruck said that between May and October, Jones had made £3,000 profit by selling stolen wheel trims on eBay.

The court was told Jones had committed 330 offences, amassing 98 court appearances and had previously been convicted 51 times for theft, 18 times for burglary and 16 times for stealing cars.

Miss Abigail Nixon, defending, said father-of-three Jones had embarked on a criminal career in order to support his family. "He has never had a job and never claimed benefits," she said, adding that he now wanted to make a fresh start.

Jones pleaded guilty to eight counts of theft and one count of going equipped for theft. He asked for 17 other thefts to be taken into consideration.

'Cathedral' is under threat



Rev Sue Oliver with the piece of masonry that fell from the church

A CHURCH known as the 'cathedral of the Black Country' is facing a repair bill of thousands of pounds after stonework around a stained glass window crumbled.

Members of St Mark's Church, Pensnett, were left picking up the pieces after the chunk of stone plummeted to the ground in April and investigations reveal further

sections of stonework, dating back more than 160 years, are at risk.

Members of the congregation at the church, known for its stained glass windows, say the cost will run into thousands of pounds. Priest in charge Rev Sue Oliver said experts would be needed to carry out work due to the age of the stonework and it's proximity to the ornate window.

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NEWS
in brief

MP praises fund boost at nurseries

MORE than 7,000 nursery children from low income families in the region are set to benefit from a £50 million Government fund.

The Early Years Pupil Premium will be aimed at three and four year olds and will be worth around £288 per child. Across the region more than £2m has been earmarked to help disadvantaged children.

In Sandwell £463,378 has been set aside to help 1,609 youngsters, while in Dudley 1,072 pupils will benefit from £308,675.

James Morris, MP for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, said: "This is fantastic news for local schools and nurseries, and reinforces the Government's commitment to putting more money where it's needed the most."

New chairman to safeguard children

A DRIVE to improve services for children in Sandwell is continuing with the recruitment of an expert to a key job.

John Harris has become chairman of the Sandwell Safeguarding Children Board, which co-ordinates work to protect children and promote their welfare.

His appointment comes as Sandwell Council continues to try to improve its Ofsted rating of 'inadequate' for looking after its children. Currently, Mr Harris is the chairman of the Doncaster Safeguarding Children Board, where he has overseen improvements since his appointment in January.

Maximum punishment call after cruel killing of dog

AN MP has written to Government ministers and the police calling for those who killed a dog found hanging from a metal chain to receive a tough punishment.

Community leaders have condemned the attack on the young dog which had been tied to a railing 15ft above street level near a primary school in Dudley. The body of a male Staffie Mastiff cross was discovered by a horrified member of the public in Bishop Close, close to Kates Hill Primary School.

RSPCA inspector Dave McCartney attended the scene after a member of the public reported what they described as a 'dog nailed to a wall' at 2am on Saturday.

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly has written to the Home Secretary Theresa May, Justice Secretary Chris Grayling and West Midlands Police chiefs. He said: "I hope that Dudley Police are successful in finding and arresting the culprit or culprits and that the full weight of the law — including the maximum sentence — will be applied in the event of a successful conviction."

"A strong message must be sent out across the country that animal cruelty is unacceptable in our society."

Dudley North MP Ian Austin, whose constituency covers Kates Hill, added: "Decent people will be appalled by such an horrendous crime. It is utterly

barbaric and you have to question the mentality of the people responsible.

"Someone must know who did this and I hope they come forward with any information they have so the police and RSPCA can bring the perpetrators to justice. I know local people will be outraged that this could happen in Dudley."

"I get a lot of correspondence from local people about animal welfare and I have worked hard to campaign on animal welfare issues. Incidents like this remind us why much more still needs to be done."

The dog, estimated to be between one and two-years-old, was not micro-chipped and it is not known who the animal belonged to.

The leader of Dudley's Conservative Group, Councillor Patrick Harley has spoken of his shock saying he hoped the police find whoever was responsible for the attack.

Anyone with information can call the RSPCA's inspector appeal line on 0300 123 8018.

D-Day Darlings sang for the troops



Flying the flag to honour military veterans at Himley Hall — 1940s style singing group The D-Day Darlings

THE sixth annual Armed Forces Day celebrations in the Black Country focused on Himley Hall where there was a ceremony for ex-servicemen to receive military badges.

They received them from Mayor of Dudley Councillor Mrs Margaret Aston, Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands Paul Sabapathy and High Sheriff of the West Midlands Dr Tim Watts.

Among those awarded was Sergeant Paul Lewis who served from 1989 to 2008 in the 1st Royal Horse Artillery,

Royal Welsh Fusiliers and 1st Signal Brigade, in Bosnia, Northern Ireland and Iraq. The 43-year-old now works for Forces Recruitment Services, helping ex-servicemen and women into employment.

Honoured

He said: "It's quite special to get so many great men and women together, and it's quite something when so many people want to come down and applaud them. I'm honoured to be among such a group of people."

The presentations were made in front of the hall, and, following the ceremony, there was music from the West Midlands Fire Service Band and 1940s-style girl trio the D-Day Darlings.

In Wolverhampton, people lined the streets and applauded a procession in the city centre and there was also a parade to honour the military in Oldbury.

In Oldbury, TA regiments from West Bromwich and Oldbury joined in the parade

New chief in pledge on policing despite cuts

DUDLEY'S new police chief has pledged officers will continue to drive down crime despite facing fresh cuts.

Chief Superintendent Chris Johnson has set his targets after taking charge of the Dudley Local Policing Unit. He said it was too early to say how needed force-wide savings would impact on the borough but said it was his job to make sure it did not affect performance and the service offered to the public.

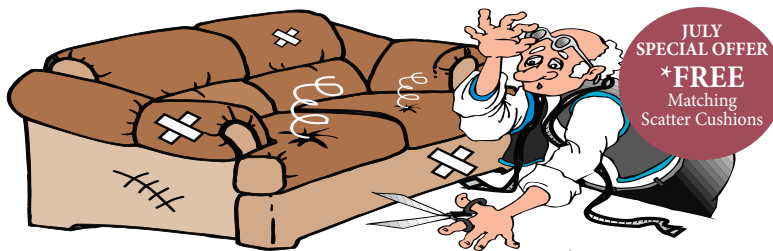
Ch Supt Johnson, speaking before the sudden death of Police and Crime Commissioner Bob Jones, said: "I believe my role is to make sure that as we face that financial challenge, it doesn't impact on service delivery within communities."

"I still want to drive up the quality of service we offer and think we can reduce crime even further. I'm absolutely sure we can increase trust and confidence with communities locally."

"I already get a sense it's a really supportive community in Dudley where it feels like local people really care for policing of their area and are willing to step up and engage in supporting their local police — and who can ask more than that, as the local policing commander."

Ch Supt Johnson replaces Ch Supt for Operations Stuart Johnson, who is now responsible for firearms, the dog unit, events and football planning, force traffic and Birmingham International Airport policing.

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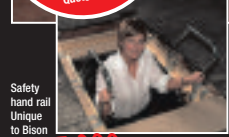
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Bid to restore park's memorial needs help



Chairman of the Friends of Buffery Park Group, Stephen Briscoe, is pictured by the Grazebrook memorial

A GROUP wants to return a war memorial in a Dudley park back to its former glory.

The Friends of Buffery Park in Dudley are putting together a funding bid for work to be carried out on the memorial in Grazebrook Park.

But as part of the project they need to know more about the history of both the memorial and the site.

Members are asking local people to come forward with pictures of the memorial from the past and are looking for accounts of what the park was like in decades gone by.

People who had relatives in the area who died in the First World War are also being asked to come forward.

The group wants to build a wall around the memorial to honour those who lost their lives in war.

Group chairman Steve Briscoe said: "Unfortunately the history of Grazebrook Park is very patchy. There are no known pictures of what the park looked like in the 1930s and 1940s and we really want to fill in these gaps for the bid.

"We would urge anyone with any photos or information on the park to get in touch with us."

People can e-mail Bufferypark@yahoo.co.uk or telephone 07582 318472.

Mr Briscoe said they were looking at securing funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund but were also looking at other sources of funding.

"Grazebrook Park is a hidden treasure and is a symbol of the great industrial power the Grazebrook family once had in the area. They owned mines and steel works built around the Black Country," added Mr Briscoe.

The memorial was built in honour of CA Grazebrook, who died in the First World War, along with other locals.

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Poet's view on catching happiness

BILBROOK WI

WE opened the meeting with Jerusalem and our president Julie Hammersley went through the notices.

When all business was concluded she introduced our speaker, Bert Flintcroft, whose talk was entitled Catching Happiness - A Poet's View.

Bert began by telling us a little of his life and how he came into poetry. He was born in 1946 and grew up in Lancashire. After graduating from Sheffield University he taught English.

He is now building up a reputation and spreading the poetry word as a teacher, mentor, workshop leader, poet in residence and reader.

He is passionate about poetry and will hold readings in any venue from pubs to church halls.

Bert has recently published a book of poems, Singing Puccini at the Kitchen Sink. When he was a young boy his father used to sing opera when he was doing the washing up).

Bert read us several poems including, Sonnet to a Bacon Sandwich and Nightlife.

Following each reading there was a discussion and question and answer time. A very interesting afternoon.

Members had been invited to submit their own poems for Bert to judge. As he found it difficult to choose between two it was declared that Margaret and Ann were joint winners.

The afternoon concluded with the raffle and refreshments.

Wartime night proves to be a great success

Getting ready for summer tea party

WOLLASTON E TWG

APPROXIMATELY 50 members, plus two ladies from the federation, attended the June meeting, which was presided over by chairman Jean Latham.

The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, after which, the treasurer and activity leaders read their reports.

Unfortunately a reduced number of participants completed the Macmillan Mile Walk this year, but the 'après walk' meal was enjoyed by all.

The two visits to Hagley Hall were greatly enjoyed.

Sadly the excursion to the Cotswold villages has had to be cancelled due to there being insufficient numbers to fill a coach.

The luncheon club's next meet is on July 23 at The Vine, Clent. Further details are available from Jill Dunn. Monies are re-

quired by the treasurer for both the theatre visit in October and the shopping outing to Bath in November.

The bowls competition is getting under way shortly and 14 ladies will be vying for the coveted winner's trophy!

The speaker was Mr B Broadfield, and everyone enjoyed his talk on the circus and theatre. Raffle prizes went to Jill Forrest and Lesley Wall. Competition winners were Jean Latham and Sue Ward.

The next meeting is on July 8, at St James' Church Hall, Wollaston. It will incorporate the Summer Tea Party. The theme is the Mad Hatter's tea party from Alice in Wonderland, so if possible, wear an appropriate hat!

SHARESHILL WI

PRESIDENT Margaret Beddard welcomed members to our own Wartime 40s Night.

The Eating Out Club met at The Elms and the village has celebrated the Church Flower Festival, which was a great success. Carol Hood did us proud with a beautiful arrangement in the WI window.

Our evening of fun started with the game Blow up Hitler, our own Susan Davidson's version of Beetle. It caused much hilarity. Prizes of bags of dolly mixtures were awarded for the first to finish and also for the best drawing of Hitler. A Second World War and 1940s quiz compiled by the president was followed by a special supper of fish paste, spam and jam sandwiches, jellies blancmanges and plain biscuits.

While we enjoyed listening to music from the 40s there was time to peruse the items which members had brought along for the exhibition of wartime memorabilia. Barbara Williams provided an interesting display of items and history concerning soldiers from the village who had fought in both world wars - many of them not returning.

Fashion fun for the evening

QUARRY BANK E TWG

THE club welcomed back chairman Mrs W Wright to chaired the June meeting having been unable to attend several previous ones. Members wished her well. She welcomed 28 members, including one new member.

Social secretary Mrs M Writtle said the proposed visit to Hampton Court has been cancelled due to lack of support.

However, afternoon tea at David Austin Roses was met with general approval. The

speaker for evening was Ruth Lowe, her topic The Life of Mary Quant. She had an amazing knowledge of her subject.

She had brought garments and other items, not to mention her own amazing outfit, most of these things typical of the 60s.

She also shared so much detailed information on the life and career of Mary Quant.

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Attacks by dogs on more than 100 posties

MORE than 100 postmen and women were attacked by dogs in the West Midlands and Staffordshire last year, it has been revealed.

The figures, released by Royal Mail, shows an increase in all five postcodes in the region. Almost 80 attacks were logged by postmen and women between April 2013 and 2014, including 39 in the B postcode area.

Wolverhampton saw seven attacks, while the figure rose to 19 in Dudley. Walsall was the only area that saw a decrease compared to the previous year, dropping to 13 from 14.

In Staffordshire the number of attacks rose considerably to 45 from 19 the previous year.

There are an increased number of attacks during the summer holidays, when parents and children are at home and dogs are left off their leads to play.

Karen English, delivery director at Royal Mail, said: "We know that most dogs are not inherently dangerous, however, even the most placid animal can be prone to attack if it feels its territory is being threatened."

"Our first priority as an employer is to ensure the welfare and safety of our people who provide a valuable service to our customers.

by Jon Pritchard

We appeal to dog owners in the Midlands to keep their pets under control, especially if they know their pets have a territorial nature.

"It can also be simple things that help, for example just making sure the dog is kept inside when the postman calls."

The figures have been released to coincide with Dog Awareness Week, which runs this week (June 30 to July 4).

The campaign, which also works with a number of animal charities, aims to raise understanding of dog attacks and the need for responsible dog ownership. It also appeals for dog owners to keep animals under control when the postman calls. See www.royalmail.com/dogawareness

Towie star has salon charity event date



Essex girl Gemma Collins is coming to Wordsley to support a rare cancer charity event later this month

REALITY television star Gemma Collins will be attending a charity event at a beauty salon later this month

Gemma, from The Only Way Is Essex, will be at Tranquillite, in Sandringham Place, Wordsley, on Saturday, July 26.

The event, which will feature a champagne reception, raffles and refreshments, marks the first anniversary of the salon and will raise cash for charity Pseudomyxoma Survivor.

Pseudomyxoma peritonei (PMP) is a rare cancer that usually starts as a small growth in the appendix, which will eventually break through the appendix wall and into the abdominal cavity lining, causing the abdomen to swell and compress other vital organs.

Steve Tudor, aged 33, who runs the salon with his partner Claire, has raised £1,500 for the charity through numerous events since his father Chris died following a battle with PMP last year.

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'Outstanding' target after college achieves best rating

STAFF and students at Sandwell College are celebrating their best-ever inspection result after being given a 'good' rating.

The college has officially been awarded the second highest grade by Ofsted inspectors, who praised its 'accommodation and resources of the highest quality' and 'often outstanding' teaching and learning.

The news, released in a newly-released report is sure to provide a boost to the college ahead of the expected opening of its new campus in the former The Public building in West Bromwich in September.

In 2011 the college was rated at grade three, 'satisfactory', but in 2007 was slapped with an 'inadequate' rating.

But this time around outcomes for learners, quality of teaching, learning and assessment, and effective-

ness of leadership and management have all been given the 'good' seal of approval in the report.

English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) received the highest possible grade of 'outstanding'.

Principal Graham Pennington, who took over the reins of the new £77 million college in January, commended staff and students for their hard work in achieving the result.

He said: "I know how hard everyone has worked since the last inspection and in the final preparations.

"I can't thank everyone enough for the support they have provided."

"Achievement of this Ofsted grade is a milestone for the college and marks both the completion of one journey but the start of another one — to outstanding."



Students Nabilla Nasyilla and Sandra Sadowska celebrate with college principal Graham Pennington

Social workers face a struggle to cope

SOCIAL workers are struggling to keep up with demand, according to a report that has prompted a call for extra funding. Trade union Unison says there must be more cash put into child protection and mental health services for vulnerable children.

A report from the Centre for Social Justice says that children are suffering and are unprotected. Nationally councils have cut spending on staff in children's social services by £147 million over the last two years, as Government slashed more than £5 billion from the grants it made to local councils.

Tony Rabiotti, West Midlands regional manager for Unison, said: "We know that social workers live with a daily struggle to deal with the sheer volume of work protecting and supporting children. Budget cuts have led to social work shortages and to a focus on crisis management rather than early intervention. Welfare cuts, and rising child poverty mean more and more children need help. Social workers are under constant pressure to close cases and to find the cheapest placement options, rather than what would be the best for the child."

Trader sent to prison for selling fake DVDs

A TRADER who pocketed more than £300,000 by selling counterfeit DVDs to unsuspecting customers over the internet has been jailed.

Simon Newby, who was director at Sinew Enterprises Ltd, has begun a 16-month prison sentence.

His younger stepbrother Thomas Fellows, of Bilston, who was secretary at the company in Dudley Road, Brierley Hill, was given a 12-month community order.

by Lee Watton

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard last week that between October 2008 and April 2010 PayPal payments of \$404,620 (£242,055) had been made to a website operated by the firm.

A further £62,000 had been made from customers using credit cards between April and November 2010.

Newby, 32, of Bickon Drive, Quarry Bank, pleaded guilty to 28 offences under the Trademarks Act at a previous hearing.

Raids were carried out by Dudley Trading Standards at his business premises and home.

Miss Sally Cairns, prosecuting, told the court that Newby had originally set up a legitimate business selling car cleaning chemicals. "However the profits from selling the DVDs became so great they overtook his legitimate business," she said.

"During the raids burning towers, computers, printers and 1,800 counterfeit DVDs were seized."

Newby had used false names when setting up websites and accounts, which he claimed was done to stop junk mail.

Mr Brett Wilson, defending Newby, said: "He had

Thousands will flock to scarecrow festival

HEROES and villains of the screen will be the theme of a village's 18th scarecrow festival.

Preparations are already under way for this year's event at Belbroughton, near Stourbridge, on September 27 and 28. People from the village make scarecrows decorated to reflect a theme, then displayed outside their homes.

Festival chairman Ian Pemberton said £10,000 had been set aside for entertainments alone at this year's festival, which will this year include a classic car rally, a motorcycle stunt display, a model railway display and animals from West Midlands Safari Park.

Around 100 scarecrows were on display at last year's event, which attracted 16,000 sightseers, and raised £36,000 for good causes. This year, for the first time, people from outside the village are invited to bring along their own scarecrows, which will be judged in a special category.

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INFO

- Return flights
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 - Cruise to Borrowmean islands and entrance to villa and gardens
 - Visits to Lake Como and Lake Orta
 - Panoramic journey to Zermatt to see the Matterhorn
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Perhaps the highlight of the tour will be the journey through the Alps and the Simplon Pass to witness spectacular scenery before arriving at the village of Zermatt. It is here where the Swiss national symbol, the Matterhorn, is revealed in all its glory – truly one of lifes 'wow' moments.

Visits are also made to one of Northern Italy's most attractive and famous lakes, Lake Como, plus Lake Orta probably one of the prettiest yet least known of the lakes.

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INFO

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 - Services of a tour manager
 - Single rooms subject to availability-supplement applies
- Organised by Newmarket Faraway Holidays (ABTA V7812 ATOL 2325)

Worker hits road for cancer charity

A COUNCIL worker is planning a 250-mile hike to raise money and awareness for Prostate Cancer UK.

Lee Hipkiss, who works as a rubbish collector at Dudley Council's Lister Road depot and is known as Fred, decided to take on the challenge after being inspired by his father's courageous fight against prostate cancer.

He will start his epic walk from Dudley on August 31 and will finish at Looe in Cornwall on September 6, where his family has spent many happy holidays.

The five-day challenge will be made more difficult by the fact he will be carrying a 40lb pack of equipment on his back.

Anyone who would like to sponsor Lee can visit www.justgiving.com/fredleehipkissavesalife

Only one home in five now 'affordable' for typical family

FOUR out of every five properties on the market in the West Midlands are out of reach of the average working family looking to buy their first home, says homelessness charity Shelter.

Despite the Government's Help to Buy scheme and record low interest rates, research by Shelter found 77 per cent of properties on the market in the region are considered unaffordable.

Even if people can save up for the deposit – around £26,000 on a £148,000 home – many

can't afford the monthly repayments. Out of 33,000 homes on the market across the region, less than 7,500 were considered affordable.

The research found less than one in five of the suitable homes on the market were affordable for a typical family, even assuming that they were able to save an 18 per cent deposit – the average deposit for a first-time buyer. The situation is worse for those hoping to buy with a smaller deposit.

The charity found that 86 per cent of homes for sale in the West Midlands are out of reach for families with a 95 per cent loan.

In Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and Walsall the situation is better, with one in three homes considered affordable. But in neighbouring areas, including Kidderminster, that fell to just one in six or one in seven. South Staffordshire has less than nine per cent of homes – one in 11 – considered affordable for the average family.

Shelter is calling on the Government to commit to building more homes, including part rent-part buy homes, to get more families out of rented accommodation and onto the housing ladder.

Entrepreneur spirit is praised

THE president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce has welcomed a report which encourages youngsters to develop entrepreneurial skills while in education.

Lord Young's Enterprise for All report calls for an expansion of enterprise education in schools, colleges and universities.

Ninder Johal, president of the chamber, said: "The Black Country Chamber of Commerce welcomes this approach to enterprise in education. We represent the industrial heartland of Britain with a heritage of entrepreneurship and flair.

"Getting more young people to understand about opportunities and new ways of thinking can only be good for the Black Country."

Wet vet boosts fundraising



Vet Ian Fleming gets a soaking from care assistants Lilah Rathod and Verity Hierons

VET Ian Fleming got a soaking at an open day to raise money for a new £2 million People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA) centre at Oldbury.

It will replace the charity's outdated building at Hagley Road West in Quinton, where it has been based for 50 years.

The charity's current site treats thousands of pets such as cats, dogs and even goats every year.

Services

Staff at the PDSA PetAid Hospital in Quinton allowed animal lovers a chance to go behind the scenes to show how fundraising will make a big difference to services.

The veterinary charity has revealed plans to create a purpose-built £2m centre in Oldbury and to help fund the project staff held fundraising open day at the Quinton centre.

MP's inquiry call on child sex abuse

WEST Bromwich East MP Tom Watson, together with six other MPs, has written to the Home Secretary Theresa May urging an inquiry be set-up into what the 'failure' of police and other agencies in several high-profile child abuse cases.

The letter signed by Mr Watson has the backing of former children's minister Tim Loughton and prominent backbencher Zac Goldsmith, both Conservatives, Rochdale Labour MP Simon Danczuk, Birmingham Yardley's John Hemming and Tessa Munt, both Lib Dem, and Green Party MP Caroline Lucas. They want the inquiry to investigate why police surveillance videos and detailed dossiers appear to have gone missing in cases involving major figures.

Mr Watson said: "We are seeking an independent inquiry, similar to the investigation into the Hillsborough tragedy, to uncover the truth and bring about justice for the many victims of organised child abuse."

Comedy at town hall

A COMEDY night will celebrate the humour of the Black Country tonight at its latest Kum-n-avaloff event at Stourbridge Town Hall.

The event will tie-in with celebrations surrounding the official Black Country Day on July 14.

Headlining the event in the Wollaston Suite will be comedian Andy White, of Smethwick. Dan Smith will host the evening and there are support acts. Tickets are £8 including a curry. The show starts at 8pm. Call (01384) 812812.

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A family group shot, with perhaps mature daughters and their older parents



An undated wedding picture was among those discovered



Joyce Onions, who rescued a set of letters, dated from 1914-1922, from a bonfire in 1978



Perhaps one of the mystery authors, in naval uniform



A photo included with letters dated 1914-1922

Mystery over First World War love letters found on a bonfire

THEY have been tucked away in a drawer for decades after being salvaged from the remains of a bonfire.

But now great grandmother Joyce Onions is hoping to trace the relatives of a sailor who penned a series of letters to his wife in Walsall about his life at sea during the First World War and beyond.

The 69-year-old found almost two dozen letters dating back to between 1916 and 1922 when she went to view a house in Bentley Lane, Walsall, in 1978. She retrieved the letters from the remains of a bonfire in the garden.

They had been written by Royal Navy sailor Jack Southall to his wife.

In them he described how he explored cathedrals, caves and the masterpieces of Michelangelo as his voyage took him from country to country.

Some of them had been sent from as far as Malta and several photographs

Memory Lane by Lisa O'Brien

found with the letters are also believed to show the sailor and his wife throughout their lives, as well as babies and family gatherings.

He starts many letters with 'My own darling wife' and signs off with the words 'your own darling and ever loving hubby, Jack', and in some he lovingly tells his other half of the presents he has picked up for her on his travels.

Great-grandmother-of-one Mrs Onions, of Bradshaw Avenue, Darlaston, said: "It would be lovely to find the relatives of the man who sent the letters so they can treasure them. They are quite historical. 'I had sent the letters to the Imperial War Museum but they said they were not letters about the war and sent them back.'"

The letters do though offer an in-

sight into the pressures the crew were under at the time as they battled harsh weather. He penned one saying he had been feeling ill and his temperature had rocketed to 38C(101F).

In one of his letters, he writes that any member of the crew with a cough or cold had to attend the sick bay for treatment or else face punishment.

One of the pictures shows a serviceman wearing a string of medals and has left Mrs Onions wondering if it could be the sailor. According to the honours and awards team working for the Royal Navy, it is believed the medals he is wearing in the black and white picture are the 1914-1915 Star, the British War Medal 1914-1920, Victory Medal and the Royal Navy Long Service and Good Conduct Medal.

The Victory Medal was issued to all those who received the 1914 Star or the 1914-15 Star, for service in the First World War, and to most of those who were awarded the British War Medal. The Long Service and Good

Conduct Medal is given to those who have completed 15 years of reckonable service. Among the photos included in the letters are pictures of a married couple in their early 20s, twin babies and a family gathering by the seaside.

In one of the letters, the sailor speaks of buying seven yards of silk lace from a convent for his wife.

And a letter from 1921 shows he had also bought her another gift of a canary on his travels.

He talks about having to ration his daylight and makes references to trying to get the bird safely to Walsall.

Mrs Onions said the letters were in a drawer for decades but admitted she was now anxious to find relatives of the sailor. The Royal Naval Association said they didn't keep records of former Navy members. The National Archives had no record of Jack and the Ministry of Defence couldn't search in their records without a date of birth.

Anyone with information can call Mrs Onions on 0121 526 4062.



A group of men and women are seen on a beach, presumably somewhere on Britain



A very well-presented middle aged couple seen walking along a shop-lined street

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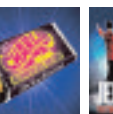
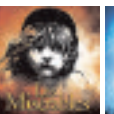
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Plank stupidity – van man has to fascia music



Pic courtesy of @TrafficWMP. This white van, with its windscreen almost entirely obstructed, was pulled over in Aston

THE dozy driver of this white van was stopped by police in Birmingham after driving with his windscreen almost completely obscured by dozens of plastic boards.

Stunned officers pulled the driver over just after 8am on Friday morning as he negotiated busy rush-hour traffic in Aston.

The shocking pictures show the windscreen almost totally covered with stacks of planks, described by officers as 'plastic fascia boards', strapped over

the roof of the Vauxhall Combo van.

West Midlands Police, who tweeted snaps of the van on their @TrafficWMP account, posted: "Meanwhile in Aston yet more proof that just like fossil fuels, the UK's supply of common sense is in short supply."

Cracked

A picture of the inside of the van shows the driver could see virtually nothing out of the cracked and almost completely-obscured windscreen.

Traffic WMP then tweeted: "The view or lack of, from inside the van, apart from the blindingly obvious

it also had no insurance, seized and court."

Motorists have expressed their shock at the driver for 'taking stupidity to a whole new level'.

Adrian Loveday, 34, was passing when he saw police pull over the hapless white van man.

He said: "I was driving through Aston when I saw this chap pulled over. At first I thought it was a joke, he couldn't see a thing out of his windscreen."

"The officers were looking at the van in disbelief – it takes stupidity to a whole new level."



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Brownies have big party to mark their 100th birthday

THEY'VE been promising to do their best for 100 years and at the weekend thousands of Brownies from the Black Country did just that to celebrate the centenary of the organisation's formation.

Two thousand girls from Girlguiding West Mercia were at Weston Park for the Big Brownie Birthday, part of nationwide celebrations. At Weston Park, tribute acts to One Direction and Katy Perry performed for the girls.

Proud

Marion Watkins, county commissioner for Girlguiding West Mercia, said: "This is something that has been planned for around two years. We're really proud of the celebration. We had so much going on throughout the day."

Other activities ranged from yoga

to kick boxing sessions. Such activities are a far cry from the days of the Brownies formation.

It was in 1908 when Robert Baden-Powell published Scouting for Boys but the book gathered a girl audience and in 1910, his sister, Agnes Baden Powell, formed the Girl Guides Association with the Brownies formed in 1914 as a junior section.

Helena Taylor, a guider for Six Kingswinford unit, added: "We have changed as the world has changed." Gill Slocombe, chief guide for the UK, said of the organisation: "It is an opportunity for these girls to develop and I think it is brilliant that they are socialising and discovering the world."

"Across the UK about 50 per cent of adult women have been involved in the girl guides."



The Maltersers chopsticks challenge attempted by Emily Davies from 3rd Kingswinford Brownies

Councils join forces to tackle boy racers

FINAL details of an injunction aimed at stopping boy racers cruising the streets of the Black Country are being drawn up by councils.

All four Black Country local authorities are teaming up to apply to the High Court for an injunction which could see people who participate in or even just watch car cruising events jailed for up to two years.

Gurdeep Thandi, spokesman for Wolverhampton City Council, said they had joined forces with Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall in finalising the details of an application to the High Court.

"If granted, the councils would have the power to take anyone suspected of participating in car cruising or speculating at such events back to court and anyone found in breach of the injunction would be liable to fines or up to two years' imprisonment," he said.

"If an injunction was granted, however, hopefully this would dissuade people from participating in car cruising in the first place. As the proposed injunction is still subject to legal proceedings, we are unable to go into any further detail at this stage."

Get ready for an extra special Black Country day

WITH just over a fortnight to go to Black Country Day on July 14, proud residents, dignitaries and businesses are gearing up for the special event celebrating Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Although launched last year, it is this year that community leaders hope the event will really become established, providing a family-fun testament to all things Black Country.

by Jon Pritchard

And although it is 15 days away, celebrations, as well as preparations, have already started.

Among the first off the mark were the breweries Black Country Ales, Holdens, Back Yard brewery and Kinver Brewery as all have produced specially made ales for the event.

T-shirts

More than 200 Black Country flags have also been ordered by Black Country Ales to adorn the inside and outside of the Lower Gornal-based brewery's 25 pubs.

Staff will also be wearing T-shirts to commemorate the event, while only Black Country beers will be stocked over the weekend beforehand, including their own, Chain Ale.

Director Angus McMeek said: "I think Black Country folk have always had a pride in the area and a desire to shout about it, we have kept that too quiet in the recently, this is a golden opportunity to shout about it."

"The Black Country has dozens of small breweries

and we believe the best beer in the country comes from the Black Country."

Pubs are getting in the spirit, including The Duke William in Coventry Street, Stourbridge which will be putting on a 'bostin' selection' of eight local ales as well as home made faggots and peas. The pub's promotion will tie in with Stourbridge Carnival on Sunday.

Black Country band The Empty Can have released 'I Vow To Thee Black Country', a re-working of 'patriotic classic' 'I Vow To Thee My Country'.

The charity single is raising money for Compton Hospice in dedication of former Wolverhampton City Council worker and magician Steve Evans, who died in January aged 52.

On the first day of its release, the single went to number 11 in the Amazon charts. It is available for 79p.

Steve Edwards, who runs the Facebook page The Only Way Is Dudley, said: "We posted the song on the site a few months ago and the response was phenomenal."

Dance mob's theatre tour is suddenly axed

THE UK tour of dance show Flash Mob has been called off after only eight performances in London.

The show, which was to be staged in Wolverhampton and Birmingham, had featured Strictly Come Dancing professionals Kevin Clifton and Karen Hauer, who are engaged, and Britain's Got Talent finalists Flawless.

Poor tickets sales have been blamed for the tour's failure. Flash Mob had been scheduled for Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre last weekend and for Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on July 15 and 16. Flash Mob also featured So You Think You Can Dance runner up Tommy Franzén, Got To Dance duo Alleviate and Irish fusion duo Brosena.

Showbiz Works, the show's producer, said: "Despite the show's successful run in the West End featuring a wonderful cast, crew and creative team and standing ovations at every performance, ticket sales on tour have not reached expectations in order to make the production viable."

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The team that won everything, Wolves' line-up in 1957 which featured Bobby Mason



Wolves player Bobby, when he was aged about 22



Former Wolves player, Tipton-born Bobby Mason, with a 1957-59 season team photo



Young Bobby, right, with Billy Wright and Peter Broadbent



Bobby on the ball playing away at Birmingham

Bobby's dazzlers as his Wolves treasures bring back glory days

TWO Football League title triumphs, an FA Cup win and a man-of-the-match performance against Real Madrid in front of 97,000 fans at the Bernabeu – a feat today's Wolves players could only dream about.

But these were the club's glory days under the helm of the great Stan Cullis, and the player in question who starred in the famous side, was Tipton-born-and-bred inside forward Bobby Mason.

Today's players can be spotted through tinted windows of sports cars entering the training ground gates – but back in Mason's time in the 1950s and 60s, he remembers sharing the bus through Dudley with nine other club professionals.

Far from the millions of pounds earned by the current crop of professional footballers, Mason, who scored 54 goals in 173 games for Wolves, was still able to have an healthy retirement, but the 78-year-old has

Memory Lane by Alex Ross

now sold off many of his medals to provide for his family's future.

"You need to have deep pockets for so many grandchildren and great grandchildren," said Mason who now lives near Swadlincote in south Derbyshire. I am 78, I think it is the right time to see the things sold, rather than leave them behind and up in the air."

Among the prized possessions to be sold were two Division One winner's medals from 1957-58 and 1958-59, which both went for £3,600 each at the Mullock's Auctioneers event in Ludlow. Two miniature Charity Shields from 1958 and 1959 went for £2,200, while his FA Cup winner's medal from 1960 got £2,400.

Other memorabilia including programmes of the club's Southern African tour in 1957 made up the rest of the

money, taking the total amount raised up to £12,600. Mason picked up the FA Cup winners medal despite not playing in Wolves' 3-0 win over Blackburn in the final.

He scored two goals in his side's journey to Wembley and played in the semi-final win against Nottingham Forest.

But manager Stan Cullis decided to pick youngster Barry Stobart – who had only played five games - ahead of him.

"I'd be lying if I said I wasn't disappointed, but I still received the FA Cup medal to show for it, so I have since got over it," said Mason. Mason was born in Great Bridge and attended Park Lane Secondary Modern School.

His footballing skills were noticed and he was signed up following a series of friendlies against Swiss clubs, aged just 16. He began an apprentice after leaving school at 17, but soon signed on as a professional, playing his first game for the club in a flood-light friendly against Scottish giants Celtic in front of 58,000 fans.

He made his League debut in 1955 in a

defeat against Luton Town at the age of 19.

He was called up for National Service near Rhyl in north Wales, much to the disappointment of Cullis, who wanted him to remain in the Black Country area. Mason played in the Welsh league and even turned out for the league when it played the Scottish League. He still holds the red kit he wore that day.

Returning to Wolves, he pushed his way into the first team and helped the club win the League title in 1957-58 with seven goals, plus three more in the FA Cup. The following year he scored 13 times to help the club win its second successive championship. "Winning the championship two years' running has to be the highlight of my career," he said. Mason left Wolves in 1962 and saw out his career with spells at non-league Chelmsford City then Leyton Orient, before retiring in 1965. He has three sons, Robert, aged 54, Neal, 51, and Nigel, 46. He also has seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He is a member of the Wolves former players' association.

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Enjoy a full day tour through the stunning scenery of New England and soak up this region of rolling, forested hills and picture book villages and towns like idyllic Woodstock. Travel through the spectacular Quechee Gorge, and along the Kancamagus Highway with its fantastic foliage displays followed by a short visit to North Conway, in the heart of New Hampshire.

An excursion to the south of the area takes in the city of Portland with its waterfront and fine seafood restaurants. Here there is an opportunity to take an optional whale watch cruise before continuing via the Bush family retreat of Kennebunkport to the resort of Nantasket beach.

Full day visits to the great East Coast cities of New York and Boston are also included.

In New York explore the city under your own steam or join the optional guided city tour. Marvel at the famous sights such as the Empire State and Chrysler buildings, bustling Times Square and the green acres of Central Park.

Boston, America's most European city, has the famous Freedom Trail through the heart of it as well as colourful Quincy market and the Harbourside, an optional guided city tour is also on offer here.

INFO

- Return flights
- Seven nights room-only hotel accommodation
- Drives through New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont
- Visit to Portland and Kennebunkport
- Full day in Manhattan, New York City
- Full day trip to Boston
- En route stop at the Yankee Candle Factory
- Services of a tour manager in the USA
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by
Newmarket Holidays (ABTA V7812, ATOL 2325)

Beamish and the North York Moors Railway

Four days departing October 10



PRICE FROM £249

- Return coach travel
- Three nights half-board accommodation
- Admission to Beamish – The Living Museum of the North
- Ride on the North York Moors Railway
- Visits to Whitby, Harrogate and Richmond
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Downton Abbey and Windsor

Two days departing September 8



PRICE FROM £119

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Highclere Castle
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Stonehenge, Bath and Oxford

Three days departing September 12



PRICE FROM £169

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Entrance to Stonehenge
- Visits to Oxford, Bath and Wells
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

Narrowboats and Steam

Three days departing September 5



PRICE FROM £199.⁹⁵

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Ride on the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway
- Cruise on Lake Windermere
- Narrowboat cruise on the Leeds Liverpool canal
- Time in Skipton and Bowness
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Short Breaks (ABTA Y5914)

Buckingham Palace, Houses of Parliament and the London Eye

Four days departing Aug 15 and Sept 19



PRICE FROM £279

- Return coach travel
 - Three nights half-board accommodation at a three-star outer London hotel
 - Entrance to Buckingham Palace
 - Entrance and guided tour of the Houses of Parliament
 - Flight on the London Eye
 - Visits to Royal Windsor and Henley on Thames
 - Free time in London
 - Services of a tour driver
 - Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies
- Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Saturday Night Theatre by rail

Two days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £139.⁹⁵

- Return standard class rail travel to London (upgrade offered)
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a choice of four-star London hotels
- Ticket for the Saturday evening performance of a West End show of your choice
- Free time in London
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Please note the "from" price and price bands vary for each show
Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

Thames Cruise aboard PS Waverley

Two days departing September 27



PRICE FROM £115

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Thames Cruise on the Paddle Steamer Waverley under Tower Bridge
- Visits to Royal Greenwich and Rochester
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Afternoon Tea at The Ritz

Two days departing Aug 10 and Oct 5



PRICE FROM £199

- Return coach travel
 - Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
 - Tour manager escort to The Ritz
 - Afternoon tea at The Ritz
 - Visit to Fortnum & Mason and Harrods
 - Glass of Champagne at the Champagne Bar, St Pancras
 - Free time in London
 - Services of a tour driver
 - Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies
- Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

Lake Como, St Moritz and the Bernina Express

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £859

- Return flights
 - Seven nights half-board accommodation in a four-star hotel
 - Single journey on the Bernina Express in standard class
 - Guided tours of Bergamo and Villa del Balbianello
 - Visits to St Moritz, Lake Maggiore, Lugano
 - Lake cruise to Bellagio
 - Services of a tour manager
 - Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies
- Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Lake Garda, Venice and Verona

Eight days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £619

- Return flights
- Seven nights half-board accommodation
- Choice of hotels
- Tour of Lake Garda
- Guided tours of Venice and Verona
- Tour of the Dolomite mountains
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744, ATOL 3430)

Paris by Eurostar

Four days various departure dates



PRICE FROM £269

- Return standard class seat on Eurostar
- Return rail connection to London (selected dates)
- Return coach transfers overseas
- Three nights bed and breakfast accommodation
- Guided sightseeing tours of Paris by day and night
- Visits to Versailles and Montmartre
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Certain entrance fees payable locally
Organised by Riviera Travel (ABTA V4744)



Heartbeat star is the new Poirot

HEARTBEAT star Jason Durr, who played DC Mike Bradley in the Yorkshire police drama, is the latest actor to become Agatha Christie's fastidious Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot.

He plays the famous detective on stage in Black Coffee at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

In this case Poirot exercises 'zee little grey cells' to discover who murdered an eccentric inventor for his new formula at an English country estate where deception and treachery are rife.

The cast also includes Liza Goddard from Bergerac and Gary Mavers from Soldier Soldier.

Call 0844 871 3011 or visit www.atgtickets.com

Fangs for the memory at Grand

EMMERDALE'S nasty Christ Tate — Peter Amory — teams up with Karen Ford from Grange Hill and Michelle Morris from The Knock in gothic vampire thriller Carmilla.

Written by David Camp-ton, based on the story by Sheridan Le Fanu, it will be staged at the Grand from Tuesday to Saturday.

It tells of a young English woman at an Eastern European castle who comes under the spell of the beautiful and enigmatic Carmilla, just as a series of murders blight the area.

Contact the box office on 01902 429212 or see www.grandtheatre.co.uk

Rock legend Plant plans a homecoming Civic Hall gig

Wicked musical fun in Oz

MEGA musical Wicked arrives in the West Midlands next week for a summer-long stay at Birmingham Hippodrome as part of its first UK tour.

A prequel to The Wizard of Oz which looks at the ill-fated college friendship between Glinda the Good and the Wicked Witch of the West, the witty show is based on the novel by Gregory Maguire and features songs by Stephen Schwartz, including the classic *Defying Gravity*. It opened in the West End in 2006 and is still running at the Apollo Victoria, whilst the Broadway version is celebrating ten years.

The touring production that runs in Birmingham from Wednesday, July 9, to September 6 has Nikki Davis-Jones in the green makeup as Elphaba, Emily Tierney as the ever Popular Glinda and Liam Doyle as Fiyero.



It's good fairy versus not-so-wicked witch, Emily Tierney and Nikki Davis-Jones

ROCK legend Robert Plant will be returning to the Black Country for a homecoming gig.

The Led Zeppelin frontman will perform at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on November 21 as part of a 13-date tour with his band The Sensational Space Shifters.

It comes after an acclaimed sell-out gig at the same venue last September.

The run of shows, which includes dates in London, Leeds, Glasgow and Dublin, will follow the release of Plant's latest album Lullaby and The Ceaseless Roar. A new single, Rainbow, will be released this summer

Glastonbury

Avid Wolves fan and vice-president of the Molineux club, Plant played the Glastonbury Festival last weekend with a performance on the famous Pyramid Stage.

Plant's new self-produced album, recorded with The Sensational Space Shifters, features nine original songs. More than 3,000 fans flocked to the last Civic gig by Plant, once voted the 'greatest voice in rock'. He delighted Led Zeppelin fans by playing several classic songs by the iconic group, including Whole Lotta Love.

Plant, along with band-mates Jimmy Page, John Paul Jones and John Bonham, formed the group in



Robert Plant — new album

1969 and had seven number one albums, making such rock anthems as Kashmir and Stairway to Heaven.

Last month the legendary band's first three albums were reissued in remastered form.

In recent years the 65-year-old has become a hugely successful solo artist, while a link-up with bluegrass star Alison Krauss saw them win several Grammy awards.

Tickets for the Civic show cost £49.50.

Review

Yes, we all still care

WILL anybody ever care? Well the answer was a resounding Yes at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on the opening night of 20th Century Boy.

Those words came from one of the final songs and the reaction proved that even 37 years after the death of the legendary Marc Bolan he will never be forgotten.

The music of T Rex lives on in this show which tells the story of his life, and tragic early death at the age of 29 in a car crash, through the eyes of the young son who he never really got to know.

It takes us on a roller-coaster journey with him and tells of Marc's struggles with himself and how his determination to be 'bigger than Elvis' saw him give up on many of his values and friends in his quest for stardom.

The humour is interspersed with anguish, Marc torn between two women he loves who watch his life spiral out of control and his lover Gloria, mother of his son Roland, who still blames herself for his death as she was driving the car.

Lead Warren Sollars, certainly sounded like Marc and all the voices were good, in particular Donna Hines as Gloria. A superb show so Get It On and book your ticket before the run finishes on Saturday.

SA

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There are four classes of travel available but early booking is recommended:

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Premier Dining Class - Prices from £199: The meal service is the same as Pullman but excluding alcoholic drinks.

First Class - Prices from £115: Including complimentary tea/coffee & biscuits.

Standard Class - Prices from £74: A Buffet Car is available for the sale of drinks & light snacks.

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CHOICE



Ben Shepherd

Tipping Point: Lucky Stars (ITV, 7.30pm)

We know what you're thinking: where can we find a show that will fill a dead hour on a Saturday night? One that will hopefully feature Carol Vorderman, that bloke who plays Emmerdale's Marlon Dingle, and if we're really lucky, I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here! veteran Joe Swash? Well, the search ends here as soap star Mark Charnock and all of the above will be taking part in the strangely addictive, Penny Falls-style show. There's a cool £20,000 up for grabs for one of the celebs' chosen charities, but which of them will be able to ensure the most amount of counters fall? The answer will be revealed before the end of the show by host Ben Shepherd.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Pies & Puds. **12.00** Bargain Hunt. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Wimbledon 2014. The ladies' singles final. **4.30** Match of the Day Live. The third quarter-final (Kick-off 5.00pm).

7.10 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

7.30 A Question of Sport: Super Saturday. Team GB gold medal-winner Lizzy Yarnold, former England cricket captain Michael Vaughan, and comedians Katherine Ryan and Ted Robbins take part in the sports-based game show.

8.10 The National Lottery: Break the Safe. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which three pairs of contestants take part in several question-and-answer sessions in a bid to be the last duo standing. The winners have the chance to play for the money in the safe – with the amount depending on how much they have earned in the previous rounds. But they're not the only ones who could end up with a small fortune, as Kate Garraway presents tonight's Lotto and Thunderball draws.

9.00 Casualty. A man ignores Ethan's advice to take it easy after a car accident, putting himself and his son in danger during a cross-country race. Connie asserts her authority over the ED.

9.50 Mrs Brown's Boys. Comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll as a dotting mother-of-six who constantly interferes in her children's lives. (R)

10.20 BBC News: Weather; National Lottery Update.

10.40 Live at the Apollo. Sarah Millican introduces routines by comedians Steve Hughes and Russell Kane at London's Hammersmith Apollo. (R)

11.30 Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Highlights. The third and fourth quarter-finals. Action from Brazil, featuring the matches at the Estadio Nacional in Brasilia and the Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador.

12.10 Film: D.O.A. (1988) **1.40** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

1.15 Wimbledon 2014. **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.40** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **7.00** A Question of Sport: Super Saturday. **7.40** The National Lottery: Break the Safe. **8.30** Match of the Day Live.

BBC2

7.30 Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Highlights. **8.15** Formula 1: British Grand Prix Second Practice. **9.55** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix Third Practice. Lee McKenzie introduces coverage of the session from Silverstone, where the ninth meeting of the season takes place. **11.05** Racing Legends: Jackie Stewart. (R) **12.05** Live Formula 1: British Grand Prix Qualifying. Suzi Perry introduces coverage from Silverstone (Start-time 1.00pm), where the grid positions are decided for the ninth meeting of the season. **2.30** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Flog It! (R) **4.30** Wimbledon 2014. Sue Barker presents further live coverage from the All England Club, featuring the men's and ladies' doubles finals. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

8.00 Today at Wimbledon. John Inverdale and guests look back at highlights of the ladies' singles final at the All England Club, where the third Grand Slam title of the year was set to be decided. Plus, a preview of the men's singles final and action from the men's and ladies' doubles finals.

9.00 QI XL. Extended edition. Sarah Millican, Jason Manford and Bill Bailey join regular panellist Alan Davies on the comedy quiz. Host Stephen Fry asks a range of fiendish questions on the topic of keeps, with points being awarded for interesting answers as well as correct ones. (R)

9.45 Film: Last Chance Harvey. (2008) A miserable New Yorker travels to London for his estranged daughter's wedding, but is devastated to find his ex-wife's new husband is to give the bride away instead of him. While trying to return home, he bumps into a woman feeling equally unfulfilled in her life, and their fledgling romance inspires them both to face up to their problems. Romantic drama, with Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson.

11.10 Film: A Single Man. (2009) A gay academic mourning his partner's death takes a day to put his affairs in order as he prepares to commit suicide. Drama set in the 1960s, with Colin Firth and Julianne Moore.

12.45 Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Replay. Action from one of the concluding two quarter-finals, which took place at the Estadio Nacional in Brasilia and the Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador. **2.30** This is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digital Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Adventure Time. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **10.30** Tour de France Live. **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)

6.00 Off Their Rockers. A pensioner attempts a daredevil escape from a care home. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme: Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** You've Been Framed! Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of mishaps filmed by viewers.

featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. (R)

7.30 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. New series. Carol Vorderman, Mark Charnock and Joe Swash answer questions to win turns on the token-pushing machine and raise money for charity. Ben Shepherd hosts.

8.30 FIFA World Cup Live 2014. The fourth quarter-final (Kick-off 9.00pm). Coverage from the Arena Fonte Nova in Salvador, Brazil, where the line-up for the semi-finals is confirmed. Eventual champions Spain were the final team to secure a place in the final in 2010, but the Spanish will not be involved this time around, as their exit from the competition was confirmed after just two matches, when a 2-0 defeat against Chile followed a humiliating 5-1 thrashing at the hands of the team they beat in the final four years ago, the Netherlands. In the event of extra-time and penalties, subsequent programmes are subject to change.

11.15 ITV News: Weather. **1.15** Film: Fletcher. (1985) A wisecracking reporter and master of disguise investigates a man who falsely claims to be dying and is asking people to kill him. Comedy mystery, with Chevy Chase.

1.15 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

10.30 Tour de France Live. **3.45** ITV News: Weather. **4.00** FIFA World Cup Live 2014. The third quarter-final (Kick-off 5.00pm). **7.10** ITV News London: Weather. **7.15** ITV News: Weather. **7.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. **8.30** Midsummer Murders. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** Trans World Sport. **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **9.00** Weekend Kitchen. **10.00** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Tomorrow. Live coverage from Sandown Park and Haydock Park. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.40** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Country enthusiast Susan Rogers hosts the final dinner party in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, hoping her French cuisine will win her extra points. She also demonstrates her skills with an accordion and gives her guests an origami masterclass, before the winner of the £1,000 prize is announced. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News. **7.10 Film: Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen.** (2009) The war between the shape-shifting robots erupts once again, as the first of the evil Decepticons leads an attack on Earth to locate an ancient planet-destroying machine.

Hapless teenager Sam Witwicky is once again caught in the middle as he holds the key to discovering the location of the device. Sci-fi comedy thriller, with Jodie Whittaker and John Boyega.

11.40 Paul Chowdhry: What's Happening White People? Stand-up show in which the comedian entertains an audience with his dry observational humour tapping into aspects of modern-day Britain. (R)

12.40 Film: The Last Exorcism. (2010) Horror, starring Patrick Fabian. **2.10** The Guides. Short drama, starring Mark Gatiss. (R) **2.25** Hollyoaks. Omnibus. Holly discovers the identity of Cindy's mystery man, the McDuces find out whether they will be evicted, and Dennis tries to coax Blessing out of the house. (R) **4.35** Deal or No Deal. Beat-the-banker game show. (R) **5.30** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. Revamping the kitchen and dining room of a home in Kent. (R) **5.50** The Hoobs. The gang breaks a record. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Access. **10.05** The Hotel Inspector Returns. (R) **11.05** Big Brother: Eviction. (R) **12.25** Film: Random Hearts. (1999) Romantic drama, with Harrison Ford and Kristin Scott Thomas. **3.00** Film: Anzio. (1968) Second World War drama, starring Robert Mitchum. **5.15** 5 News Weekend. **5.20** Film: Columbo: Suitable for Framing. (1971) Detective drama, starring Peter Falk.

6.40 Film: Columbo: Murder by the Book. (1971) An author of mystery novels kills his former writing partner so he can claim sole credit for their collaborations, and tries to appear innocent by offering to help Columbo solve the crime. Detective drama, directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Peter Falk, Jack Cassidy, Rosemary Forsyth and Barbara Colby.

8.00 She's 78. He's 39: Age Gap Love. Six people whose partners are much younger than they are reveal why being of different generations is no barrier to romance. Marilyn's relationship with husband William began when she was 45 and he was 16 and was tested from the start by abuse from friends and neighbours, while Edna (78) and Simon (39) bonded over their mutual love of organ music. Mike (74) is coping with an eight-week-old baby alongside wife Lindsey, who is 41 years his junior, while 58-year-old Gary enjoys clubbing in Ibiza with his spouse Kate, who is half his age. (R)

9.00 Big Brother. Catching up with the Big Brother contestants as they react to Friday night's live eviction, revealing how another departure has affected the rest of the house.

10.00 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. The documentary examining the lives of unemployed people visits South Yorkshire, where benefits caps, sanctions and the bedroom tax are hitting those at the poorer end of society. (R)

11.00 Big Brother's Bit on the Psych. Ryan Clark and Iain Lee present analysis of the housemates' behaviour, with input from psychologists and body-language experts.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** Bikini Body? The Truth About Diets. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 World's Craziest Fools **7.30** Top Gear **8.30** Film: Meet the Parents (2000)
11.15 Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.00** Family Guy **1.20** American Dad! **2.00** Live at the Electric 4.00 Close
BBC Four
7.00 Lost Land of the Tiger **8.00** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** The Beatles: Please Please Me – Remaking a Classic **11.45** Big in America: British Hits in the USA **12.45** Top of the Pops: 1979 **1.25** Sounds of the Eighties **2.00** Lost Land of the Tiger **3.00** The Story of Science – Power, Proof and Passion **4.00** Close
ITV2
11.00 Take Me Out **12.10** I Wanna Marry Harry **1.05** The Only Way Is Essex **2.40** You've Been Framed **4.15** Film: Valiant (2005) **5.50** Film: Nancy McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **8.00** Film: Something Borrowed (2011) **10.15** Film: The Matrix (1999) **1.10** The Magulal Weekender **1.50** Crazy Beatches **2.40** The Hot Desk – Example **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.50 Lewis **2.55** Housewife, 49 **4.45** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Lewis **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Wycliffe **12.15** Bomb Girls **1.10** Murder, She Wrote **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
5.00 Motorway Patrol **5.25** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Hornblower **10.10** Film: Raging Bull (1980) **12.50** Tour de France Highlights **1.50** Alias Smith and Jones **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.30 Rude (ish) Tube **2.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.00** How I Met Your Mother **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **9.00** Film: Sanctum (2011) **11.15** The Big Bang Theory **11.45** Rude Tube **12.45** 2 Broke Girls **1.15** How I Met Your Mother **2.15** The Ricky Gervais Show **4.00** Lee 4.45 Desperate Housewives
Film4
11.00 Cry Havoc (1943) **1.00** Home Alone 3 (1997) **3.00** Charlotte's Web (2006) **4.50** S2C Trek IV: The Voyage Home (1986) **7.20** Coolander (2001) **9.00** Conan the Barbarian (1982) Fantasy adventure, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **11.35** Secretary (2002) Comedy drama, starring Maggie Gyllenhaal. **1.45** Angel Heart (1987) **4.00** Close

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CHOICE



Nico Mirallegro

Common (BBC1, 9pm)
One-off drama from Jimmy McGovern, exploring the possible consequences of the UK's Joint Enterprise law, by which more than one person can be charged with the same offence. Seventeen-year-old Johnjo gives his cousin Tony and some friends a lift to a pizza parlour for food, unaware their real intention is to 'sort out' a local loudmouth. Things soon get out of hand, however, and an innocent bystander is fatally stabbed – and despite being in the car all the time, Johnjo finds himself charged with murder along with everyone else. Nico Mirallegro heads a cast that also includes Susan Lynch, Daniel Mays, Jodhi May, Robert Pugh, Philip Hill Pearson and Michelle Fairley.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** BBC News: Weather. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** Wimbledon 2014. Sue Barker and guests look ahead to this afternoon's men's singles final. **1.50** Wimbledon 2014. Live coverage of the men's singles final. **5.45** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **6.10** **Countryfile**. John Craven visits the Peak District set of BBC drama The Village. Helen Skelton discovers the links between the area and the British Raj, and gets tips on capturing animal photos. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **7.10** **Antiques Roadshow**. Fiona Bruce and the team pay a second visit to Wentworth Woodhouse, where items include a bible that belonged to the first black professional footballer. Last in the series. **8.10** **Casualty**. A man ignores Ethan's advice to take it easy after a car accident, putting himself and his son in danger during a cross-country race. Connie asserts her authority over the ED. (R) **9.00** **Common**. One-off drama from Jimmy McGovern, exploring the possible consequences of the UK's Joint Enterprise law, by which more than one person can be charged with the same offence. Seventeen-year-old Johnjo gives his cousin Tony and some friends a lift to a pizza parlour for food, unaware their real intention is to 'sort out' a local loudmouth. Things soon get out of hand, however, and an innocent bystander is fatally stabbed – and despite being in the car all the time, Johnjo finds himself charged with murder along with everyone else. Nico Mirallegro heads a cast that also includes Susan Lynch, Daniel Mays, Jodhi May, Robert Pugh and Michelle Fairley. **10.30** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **10.55** **Regional Programme**. **11.25** **Film: Sliding Doors**. (1998) A London woman's entire future hinges on a seemingly minor but pivotal moment. Comedy drama, starring Gwyneth Paltrow. **1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News. **1.50** Wimbledon 2014. **5.45** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **6.35** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **7.00** **Countryfile**. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. **9.00** Common.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.10** **Film: East of Eden**. (1964) **7.40** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.10** World Cup Films. **9.45** Match of the Day: FIFA World Cup Highlights. **10.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. (R) **12.00** Live From the 1. British Grand Prix. Suzi Perry introduces coverage from Silverstone (Start-time 1.00pm). **3.30** Racing Legends: Stirling Moss. (R) **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.05** Songs of Praise: Big Sing – The UK's Top 10 Hymns. **5.45** Wimbledon 2014. The mixed doubles final. **8.00** **The Quest for Bannockburn**. Part one of two. Neil Oliver and Tony Pollard conclude their attempt to mark the 700th anniversary of Bannockburn by pinpointing the location of Scotland's most iconic battlefield. They are joined by historians, archaeologists and environmental scientists as they gather evidence to chart the events that ended in Robert the Bruce's overwhelming victory over the English that helped seal Scotland's future as an independent kingdom. **9.00** **A Cabbie Abroad: Fiji**. London cabbie Mason McQueen heads to the South Pacific island of Fiji to ply his trade in the capital Suva, where he is shown the ropes by his host Dharmendra Kumar – a direct descendant of sugar plantation labourers brought from India by the British. Mason teams up with the doorman of a local hotel to sample the indigenous way of life, undergoing an ancient ritual that involves drinking a narcotic brew made from a local root, and going spearfishing. **10.00** **Mock the Week**. Rob Beckett, Susan Calman, Hal Cruttenden and Romesh Ranganathan join regular panellists Hugh Dennis and Andy Parsons on the topical comedy quiz. Dara O Briain hosts. (R) **10.35** **Today at Wimbledon**. John Inverdale presents highlights of the men's singles final at the All England Club, where the winner of the third Grand Slam event of the year was decided. **11.35** **Film: Heavenly Creatures**. (1994) Fact-based drama about two teenagers whose obsessive friendship and strange fantasies drive them to murder. Directed by Peter Jackson and starring Kate Winslet and Melanie Lynskey. **1.05** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **1.30** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two. Holby City. (R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Fort Boyard Ultimate Challenge. **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.05** Sooty. (R) **7.20** Digimon Fusion. (R) **7.45** Horrid Henry. (R) **8.00** Deadline Stories. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.30** Tour de France Live. **5.00** Tipping Point. (R) **6.00** **You've Been Framed!** Harry Hill narrates a comical selection of misdeeds filmed by viewers, featuring everything from cute kids and crazy animals to pranks and painful-looking accidents. (R) **6.30** **Regional Programme**: Weather. **6.45** **ITV News**: Weather. **7.00** **Film: Despicable Me**. (2010) A criminal mastermind hopes to seal his reputation as the greatest villain of them all by stealing the moon. First he needs to get his hands on a shrinking ray owned by a rival evil genius, and adopts three orphan girls to help him – but finds that fatherhood brings out his long-buried caring side. Animated comedy, with the voices of Steve Carell, Jason Segel, Russell Brand and Julie Andrews. **9.00** **The Nation's Favourite Motown Song**. From Dancing in the Street to I Heard It Through the Grapevine, Motown produced some era-defining music that still proves popular today. In this 90-minute special, Craig Charles counts down the Detroit record company's greatest hits, as voted for by the British public. Founded by Berry Gordy in 1959, the legendary label launched the careers of superstars such as Stevie Wonder, Diana Ross and Marvin Gaye. **10.30** **ITV News**: Weather. **10.45** **The Cube**. A builder and a 24-year-old mother take part, aiming to complete tasks within the confines of the cube to win a jackpot of £250,000. Hosted by Phillip Schofield. (R) **11.45** **The Unforgettable Russell Harty**. Profile of the chat-show host who became a household name in the 1970s and 80s for his staging of some revealing celebrity interviews as Michael Parkinson's main rival. (R) **12.15** The Store. **2.15** Motorsport UK. **3.05** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.55** ITV Nightscreen. **4.15** May the Best House Win. (R) **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** British F3. **7.10** Snowdonia Slateman Triathlon. **7.35** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Fraser. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.30** The Simpsons. (R) **3.00** The Simpsons. (R) **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.00** **Film: A Knight's Tale**. (2001) Medieval comedy adventure, starring Heath Ledger. **7.35** **Channel 4 News**. **8.00** **Film: Johnny English Reborn**. (2011) Premiere. A bumbling secret agent retires to a Tibetan monastery in disgrace after a mission goes wrong. He is lured out of seclusion by the chance to redeem himself when his former bosses seek his help in foiling an attempt to assassinate the premier of China. Spy comedy sequel, starring Rowan Atkinson, Gillian Anderson, Rosamund Pike and Dominic West. **10.00** **Sean Lock: Purple Van Man**. The 8 out of 10 Cats team captain's stand-up show, recorded in front of a sell-out audience at London's Hammersmith Apollo last year. **11.00** **Film: Get Him to the Greek**. (2010) A record company employee is given the dubious task of escorting a manic, sex-crazed British rock star to his comeback concert. Comedy, starring Russell Brand and Jonah Hill. **12.55** **Film: This Boy's Life**. (1993) A teenager suffers abuse when his mother marries a man who turns out to be a tyrannical thug. Drama set in the 1950s, with Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio and Ellen Barkin. **5.20** Swimming. A mother and her daughter try to bond. (R) **3.05** A SuperScrimpers' Merry Christmas. Mrs Moneypenny presents advice on a frugal Christmas, including home-made decorations and booze, how to avoid dodgy online deals and producing a festive buffet for 20 for just £50. (R) **4.00** Beat My Build. Amanda Lamb and Laura Hamilton challenge two builders to out-do each other in a property renovation contest, beginning with a pair of contractors in Surrey. (R) **4.55** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. Creating plates to complement a 1930s-style dining room. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. Players try to beat the banker and guess the contents of mystery boxes. (R) **5.55** Countdown. With Griff Rhys Jones. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. **7.00** Rookbarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.45** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Only the Little White Van. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** LazyTown. (R) **10.00** Access. **10.05** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.30** Big Brother. (R) **11.30** The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies. (R) **12.30** **Film: Sabrina** the Teenage Witch. (1996) Supernatural comedy, starring Melissa Joan Hart. **2.15** **Film: Space Jam**. (1996) Live action and animated comedy, with Michael Jordan. **3.55** **Film: A Goofy Movie**. (1995) Animated comedy, with the voice of Bill Farmer. **5.20** **Film: The Fox and the Hound**. (1981) **6.55** **5 News Weekend**. **7.00** **Film: Rush Hour**. (1998) A Hong Kong detective is sent to Los Angeles to investigate a kidnapping, but the local authorities worry that his presence in America might spark an international incident, and assign a loud-mouthed and troublesome cop to keep an eye on him. However, the new partnership proves an explosive combination. Comedy adventure, starring Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Ken Leung, Tom Wilkinson and Chris Penn. Edited for language. **9.00** **Big Brother**. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. **10.00** **Film: Lethal Weapon 4**. (1998) The mismatched LAPD detectives hunt down the head of a Chinese triad involved in forgery and slave trading. Action adventure, starring Mel Gibson, Danny Glover and Rene Russo. Edited for language. **12.25** World's Scariest Plane Landings. **1.10** SuperCasino. **3.10** One World Trade Centre: Rebuilt. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: British Grand Prix Highlights **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** **Film: Tron: Legacy** (2010) **11.00** Family Guy **11.45** American Dad! **12.30** Murdered By My Boyfriend **1.30** Russell Howard's Good News **2.00** Stacey Dooley in the USA: Giving Up My Baby **3.00** Live at the Electric **4.00** Close
BBC Four
8.00 Sounds of the Sixties **7.35** **Film: A Hard Day's Night** (1964) **9.00** The Lance Armstrong Story – Stop at Nothing: Storyville **10.40** Storyville: Volorama **11.40** The Richest Songs in the World **1.10** Neil Sedaka: King of Song **2.10** The Lance Armstrong Story – Stop at Nothing: Storyville **3.45** Close
ITV2
11.40 America's Got Talent **2.30** You've Been Framed! Family Special **3.15** **Film: Beethoven** (1991) **5.00** **Film: Valiant** (2005) **6.30** **Film: Pearl Harbor** (2001) **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex: 10.50 TV OD **11.20** **Film: The Matrix Reloaded** (2003) **1.55** Best of You've Been Framed! **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** **ITV2** Nightscreen
ITV3
11.20 **Film: Goodbye, Mr Chips** (1969) **1.25** A Touch of Frost **3.40** Lewis **5.40** Inspector Morse **8.00** Midsomer Murders **10.00** Wycliffe **11.05** **Film: Dial M for Murder** (1954) **1.20** William and Mary **2.10** Murder, She Wrote **3.50** **ITV3** Nightscreen **4.25** Emmerdale
ITV4
5.00 Duck Dynasty **5.55** Alias Smith and Jones **7.00** Tour de France Highlights **8.00** Dirty Britain **9.00** Benidorm **10.00** **Film: How I Spent My Summer Vacation** (2012) **12.00** From Ronald to Ronald **1.00** Tour de France Highlights **2.00** Richard Bacon's Beer and Pizza Club **2.35** Movies Now **2.45** **ITV4** Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30** The Store **5.00** Teleshopping
E4
12.30 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **1.30** The Mindy Project **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** **Film: Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian** (2009) **10.10** The Big Bang Theory **10.40** Ride Tube **11.40** How I Met Your Mother **12.10** New Girl **12.40** Rules of Engagement **1.40** The Cleveland Show **2.20** Hollywoods
Film4
11.00 The Enemy Below (1957) **1.00** The Phantom (1996) **2.50** Star Trek V: The Final Frontier (1989) **5.00** Rio (2011) **6.50** Mission: Impossible (1996) **9.00** Unstoppable (2010) **10.55** Silver (1993) **1.00** Wuthering Heights (2011) **3.40** Close

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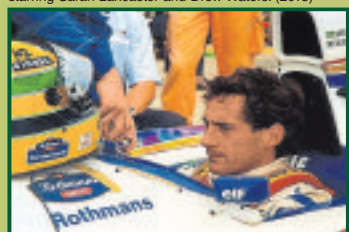
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Film Choices

MONDAY
The Armstrong Lie, Channel 4, 9pm
Documentary following cycling champion Lance Armstrong's fall from grace. Film-maker Alex Gibney was initially commissioned to follow the cyclist as he prepared to make a professional comeback by competing in the Tour de France, only to find himself documenting an unprecedented scandal. (2014)

TUESDAY
hattered Silence, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A grieving mother wants to understand why her teenage daughter committed suicide, and is shocked to discover she had been subjected to a campaign of bullying. However, as she goes in search of the culprits, she starts receiving anonymous threats and realises there is more to this tragedy than anyone suspects. Drama, starring Liz Vassey and Jenn Proske. (2012)

WEDNESDAY
A Woman Betrayed, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A single mother starts a new relationship with a seemingly perfect man, only to learn he has kept his real identity a secret from her – he is actually the married preacher of a popular church. When his wealthy wife is murdered, she becomes a suspect and faces having her son taken away from her. Crime drama, starring Sarah Lancaster and Drew Waters. (2013)



Senna, Friday, ITV, 10.35pm

THURSDAY
A Soldier's Love Story, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A sergeant in the US Army serving in Afghanistan becomes a father figure to a lonely boy who writes to him from California. When the soldier returns from his tour of duty, he visits the youngster and begins to develop a relationship with the lad's divorced mother. Romantic drama, with Lori Loughlin and Johnny Messner. (2010)

FRIDAY
Senna, ITV, 10.35pm
Documentary about the life of Brazilian Formula One driver Ayrton Senna, examining his achievements on the track over a 10-year period that saw him crowned world champion three times, until his death in a crash during the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix. Featuring rare footage from the F1 archives and contributions from fellow racing stars including Jackie Stewart. (2010)
Hamlet 2, BBC2, 11.05pm
A failed actor gets a job as a high-school drama teacher to make ends meet. When he learns his course is to be cut from the curriculum, he tries to save it by putting on a spectacular stage production – a self-penned musical sequel to Shakespeare's tragedy. Comedy, starring Steve Coogan and Catherine Keener. (2008)

Pick of the Week

Johnjo falls foul of the Joint Enterprise law

There are just a handful of writers working in British TV whose name makes viewers sit up and take notice. Arguably at the front of that list is Jimmy McGovern, who began his small screen career by penning episodes of Brookside, which was set in his home city of Liverpool.

Since then he's won numerous plaudits for such acclaimed programmes as Cracker, The Lakes, The Street, Hillsborough, Sunday and Accused.

Now McGovern is back with Common, a one-off, feature-length drama that is sure to provoke plenty of chat around watercooler across the nation – and may even spark further debate in more lofty settings.

Like much of his previous work, it's set in the north west of England. At the centre of the tale is Common Purpose, a 300-year-old legal doctrine that allows several people to be charged with a crime where they are not the primary offenders.

It has been increasingly used in the last 10 years to tackle crimes, often murder, which are deemed to be gang-related.

"Joint Enterprise was first used in Britain's courts a few hundred years ago," explains McGovern. "It was designed to stop the aristocracy duelling. If one duelist killed another then all involved in that duel (the seconds and the surgeons) were charged with murder. It worked. Britain's aristocrats stopped duelling."

"Now the law is being used against Britain's youth. If someone dies in a fight and you're involved in any way whatsoever, you could find yourself charged with murder. And, if you do, Heaven help you because the burden of proof required in joint enterprise cases is frighteningly low."

The BBC's controller of drama commissioning, Ben Stephenson, adds: "Common is an ambitious and controversial film. Much in the same way as Hillsborough and Sunday, Jimmy wanted to write this film after talking to the families of those directly affected by the joint enterprise law."

"We believe it is right for the BBC to give writers such as Jimmy an opportunity to tell a story like this, and to allow the audience to make up their own minds about it."

McGovern has certainly attracted a great cast – the likes of Nico Mirallegro, Daniel Mays, Jodhi May, Robert Pugh, Michael Gambon and Michelle Fairley.

"When it comes to casting you always have a wish list – a list of actors who'd be perfect for the parts you have written," says McGovern.

"You never get them of course. They're often too busy or away on holiday or they hate the script or whatever. But on this occasion, I got them all, every single one on my wish list. And I am over the moon."

The Village star Mirallegro heads the cast as 17-year-old Johnjo, who gives his cousin Tony and some mates a lift, supposedly so they can get a pizza.

But what Johnjo is totally unaware of is their real intention is to confront somebody they've had an argument with earlier.

Things soon get out of hand – and in the ensuing melee, an innocent bystander is fatally stabbed – and Johnjo finds himself charged with murder along with everyone else.



Nico Mirallegro stars in Common, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

Monday
Scotland: For Richer or Poorer? BBC2, 9pm
September 18: remember the date. It's the day on which the people of Scotland decide whether Scotland should be an independent country. There's been a lot of crystal ball-gazing recently, as people on both sides of the divide attempt to predict whether an independent Scotland would be a good or a bad thing. BBC economics editor Robert Peston looks at all the evidence in a bid to find out whether an independent Scotland and its people would truly be better off.

John Bishop's Australia BBC1, 9pm
New series. In 1992, the 25-year-old John Bishop rode a bicycle through Australia and back to Liverpool. But having spent all day on the road, he always felt he missed out on so much of the country he rode through. Now he returns to retrace his journey Down Under, using his original diary as a guidebook, meeting a range of extraordinary characters and experiencing true natural wonders.

TUESDAY
Embarassing Bodies Channel 4, 9pm
The docs return tonight in a series that sees them take on their most challenging cases yet, beginning with young dad Dan, who discusses a large hole in his face with Dr Christian. Jaya speaks to Dr Dawn about her voice after an unusual condition distorted her voicebox, and Dr Pixie sees a woman looking for help with some childhood burns.

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation Channel 5, 9pm
A homeless man goes on a winning streak at a casino that nets him \$350,000, but his luck runs out when he is later found apparently stabbed to death in an alley. After scouring the crime scene for clues, the team learns the victim recently visited a pawn shop, where the investigators discover his winnings hidden in a speaker taken in by a security guard from the casino.

WEDNESDAY
Brand New House for 5K Channel 5, 8pm
Seven years ago, Caroline and Sean bought a three-bedroomed semi-detached house. With a drab master bedroom, dominated by a huge, brown, built-in wardrobe, it has little appeal, while the main room downstairs features a grown-up area for eating at one end and a kids' den at the other. To keep costs down, Linda Barker and her team re-use the carcasses of the kitchen cupboards and the master bedroom and change the doors. Can Linda stay within budget, and cure the couple of their DIY phobia?

This Old Thing: The Vintage Clothes Show Channel 4, 8pm
In Doncaster, Dawn O'Porter faces tough opposition from vintage-hater Liza, who's not afraid of spending a small fortune on one-off, bold fashion statements to help her stand out from the crowd.

However, she's worried that she dresses like her teenage daughter and wants a more grown-up style. Armed with a few devious devices, can Dawn persuade Liza that old is just as good as new? Plus, the sewing workshop transforms a pair of jeans that have seen better days, and a look into the archives reveals how the flared trouser was born.

THURSDAY
George Clarke's Amazing Spaces Channel 4, 8pm
George Clarke is a busy fella. Not only does he front Restoration Man and Amazing Spaces, he's also got a new series coming up soon about sheds. So how does he find the time to work on his projects? Simple – he persuades his mate Will to take them on, and films their progress as part of this series. We'll get a chance to see how the master carpenter is getting on with George's garden room this week. But of most interest are the latest builds. One involves two brothers who are turning a narrow boat into a bachelor pad with help from online tutorials, and a police officer who wants to convert an old campervan and caravan into a mobile cream tea business.

The Million Pound Drop, Friday, Channel 4, 8pm

The Honourable Woman BBC2, 9pm
With the hunt on for Atika's son, Hayden-Hoyle starts to investigate who killed Meshal and why, but his enquiries are blocked by his boss Dame Julia Walsh on the instructions of the CIA, and the MI6 chief directs his attention elsewhere. Meanwhile, as more of her past is uncovered, Nessa receives a mysterious phone call from a man who threatens to divulge secrets from the period when she and Atika were kidnapped eight years previously in Gaza. Political thriller written and directed by Hugo Blick, starring Maggie Gyllenhaal, Stephen Rea and Janet McTeer.

FRIDAY
Coronation Street ITV, 7.30pm
If Rob's tired of walking on eggshells by now, he can probably rest assured that soon enough, his murderous ways will out. As Tracy adores her new charm bracelet, Rob is taken a back to realise that it's the same jewellery he stole from Tina and Steph's flat. Meanwhile, Marcus is suspended from work for taking too much time off.

The Million Pound Drop Channel 4, 8pm
Davina McCall returns with the quiz show in which contestants try to stop wads of cash falling through trapdoors by correctly – and quickly – answering a series of questions. For the 13th series, each edition features a themed game, from a blind-date drop to a workplace special, and more well-known faces take on the challenge for good causes.

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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.

16132113119121991912

32222262124

5121326216391724

2821919619102

261924191210154

182271317112292

14219

9222616252326192616

17202422102224

22913203211219

201311320712271

6152222211

25212251320272825

114

215

316

417

518

619

720

821

922

1023

1124

1225

1326

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26

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22

23

24

25

26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

12345678910111213

G I W S R P X E Y V Q M H

14151617181920212223242526

O Z C F A B U L N T K J D

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Passenger-carrying flight (9)
8. Scottish name in a new form (3)
9. Making it she'll toil to work on the land (4,3,4)
11. Many stampeded and were injured (7)
12. It helps to make a cake enticing (5)
13. Charm, possibly earned (6)
15. Things to be done in company (6)
17. A pronounced similarity (5)
18. Assign work to a writer (7)
20. Vessels that live on parties (3-8)
22. I leave the earth for the sun (3)
23. Thought someone guilty or was doubtful (9)

Down

2. It will be in most winter sportsmen's kit (3)
3. May get a lift when you come in (5)
4. Takes steps to make wine? (6)
5. Go in for modified coverage (7)
6. Moving experience for one who takes a back seat (7,4)
7. What you have to do to become one (9)
10. The price of cleanliness? (7,4)
11. Gloomy supporters will, if their team's doing badly (9)
14. Eternal theme of the beautician (7)
16. Such chaplains may be spared (6)
19. Engrave a hunting scene? (5)
21. Kind of bread found in every English home (3)

1234567

8

910

1112

13141516

171819

2021

2223

Quick Clues:

Across

1. Workable (9)
8. Possess (3)
9. Plundering (11)
11. Respire (7)
12. Superior (5)
13. Beast (6)
15. Save (6)
17. Fool (5)
18. Insult (7)
20. Diligently (11)
22. Speck (3)
23. Artifice (9)

Down

2. Fish-eggs (3)
3. Handle (5)
4. Cowardly (6)
5. Free time (7)
6. Glaring (11)
7. Burial (9)
10. Hasty (11)
11. Supreme happiness (9)
14. Swears (7)
16. Stray (6)
19. Swim (5)
21. Rest (3)

Sudoku

29

395

238123

764571

68951

241856

611

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1179346852

348125769

256798413

731469528

625831974

984257631

513974286

462583197

897612348

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Outcry; 8 Drover; 10 Trainee; 11 Force; 12 Asti; 13 Eject; 17 Award; 18 Last; 22 Staff; 23 Evasion; 24 Dearly; 25 Debase. Down: 1 Post-bag; 2 Stealth; 3 Prone; 4 Preface; 5 Ivory; 6 Brief; 9 New Jersey; 14 Twofold; 15 Capital; 16 Stunted; 19 Aside; 20 Madam; 21 Later. QUICK - Across: 7 Needle; 8 Potent; 10 Educate; 11 Twice; 12 Site; 13 Quack; 17 Pinch; 18 Tale; 22 About; 23 Retract; 24 Return; 25 Seller. Down: 1 Incense; 2 Requite; 3 Plead; 4 Contact; 5 Tepid; 6 Steep; 9 Sepulchre; 14 Disturb; 15 Capable; 16 Restore; 19 Marry; 20 Worth; 21 Otter.

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Victoria Falls Botswana Safari and Cape Town

Beginning in Zambia, staying close to the spectacular Victoria Falls, the largest single body of falling water in the world, a sunset cruise along the mighty Zambezi on the African Queen will be the first spectacular experience. As the boat glides across this expanse of a river inhabited by hippo and crocodiles, simply relax in a wicker armchair and absorb the unique surroundings.

At Victoria Falls, a guided walking tour is included with other options to view the spectacular falls from either a cruise, a helicopter flight or from a micro-light aircraft.

On the Botswana Safari travel in a specially adapted 10-seater open-sided safari vehicle and see a wide variety of game including monkeys, warthogs and even leopards plus the chance to see cats, giraffe and elephants – it's an experience not to be forgotten so remember to pack a camera!

A second cruise, this time along the Chobe River, almost guarantees sightings of elephant and hippo, then a visit to Cape Point passes the fishing harbour of Hout Bay. Continuing on, see the breathtakingly scenic Chapman's Peak Drive, full of rugged seascapes and cliffs to the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve.

At Cape Point itself see the confluence of the Indian and Atlantic Ocean then it's on to Boulders Beach to see the resident penguin colony.

On the Winelands tour, a visit to the small town of Franschoek is included home to South Africa's most prestigious university and where period buildings and historic streets reinforce the town's dignified atmosphere. A cellar tour and tasting at the award-winning Boschendal Wine Estate is included.

The touring holiday ends in Cape Town. Take time to explore the excellent shopping and dining available, take the cable car to the summit of Table Mountain and, weather permitting, visit Robben Island where Nelson Mandela spent most of his 27 years incarceration.

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- Tour the Western Cape's Winelands
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* varies according to departure date – please go to website for the latest availability and prices

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Halesowen Office Lettings & Property Management



NEW

HALESOWEN, Belle Vale £795 pcm - Fees
A huge 3 bed terraced house which was converted from the old Shelton Lane Pub. This lovely mid terraced house features a modern country style kitchen with appliances, lounge, stylish bathroom with shower, downstairs WC, garage, huge cellar. EPC: TBC



ROWLEY REGIS, Alwin Road£650 pcm - Fees
This detached house is in a cul-de-sac location. Located close to local shops and transport links. Featuring gas central heating, living room, dining area, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, rear garden, driveway parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC



HALESOWEN, Wroxley House£595 pcm - Fees
1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury ground floor apartment offering spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen and diner with balcony, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B



NEW PRICE

MERRY HILL, Columbus Avenue£550 pcm - Fees
Ideal for shopping. Centrally located on the Merry Hill Shopping Centre and transport links. This fabulous 2nd floor apartment features modern decoration and can not be missed, and features 1 double & 1 large single bedroom, dual aspect lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, en-suite to master bedroom, large loft area, allocated parking (parking permit required). EPC: C



NETHERTON, Purlin Wharf£525 pcm - Fees
A very presentable, unfurnished ground floor apartment on this popular development, ideally located for canal walks. This property features 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, spacious lounge, modern fitted kitchen, family bathroom with white suite, double glazing, electric heating, 1 allocated parking space. Viewing highly recommended. EPC: C



NEW

HALESOWEN, Greenhill Road£525 pcm - Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed! This fantastic 2 double bedroom end terrace house close to Blackheath Town Centre, M5 J2 and bus links, is undergoing a complete redecoration. Featuring 2 reception rooms, modern kitchen with appliances, utility room and WC, upstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Dudley Road£450 pcm - Fees
Not to miss is this 1 bedroom ground floor flat which has just undergone a full refurbishment. Standing in its own grounds within a detached house with parking for 2 cars this unique property comprises of lounge with electric fire, fitted kitchen, white bathroom suite with shower & 1 double bedroom, outside rear garden. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Fairbourne Avenue£675 pcm - Fees
Perfect for a family and close to the M5. A large Mucklow Style detached home which is available now, close to local shops and bus routes. Featuring 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and 1 large single bedroom, 2 good size lounges, large kitchen, downstairs wc, shower room, gas central heating, new windows, huge rear garden, driveway and garage. EPC: D



NEW

HALESOWEN, Glendale Close£650 pcm - Fees
A superb 3 bedroom semi detached family home situated in a cul de sac location within close proximity to Halesowen and local amenities. Driveway to front with garage to rear, attractive lounge with entrance into dining room, conservatory, modern kitchen, family bathroom with telephone shower, well established rear garden. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Queens Drive£595 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished or part furnished traditional 3 bedroom semi detached house in a popular location. This house features a lovely entrance hall, front lounge with a bay window, dining room, small kitchen, upstairs bathroom with shower, off road parking for 2 vehicles, rear garden, gas central heating, double glazing. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Beecher Road£550 pcm - Fees
A very well presented semi-detached house, in a sought after area for Colley Lane Primary School and bus links. Featuring a large living room, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front and rear gardens, driveway parking. EPC: D



NEW PRICE

ROWLEY REGIS, Aqua Court£525 pcm - Fees
Beautifully presented and not to be missed. This new build ground floor apartment, a stones throw away from Blackheath Town Centre and featuring 2 double bedrooms, master bedroom with en-suite, open plan lounge/kitchen, house bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking space, viewing highly recommended. EPC: B



NEW PRICE

DUDLEY, Gammage Street£475 pcm - Fees
Ideal for Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley Town Centre and transport links. This end terrace 2 bedroom property is in the process of being painted and updated with a brand new combi boiler and integrated oven. This home features entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, 2 double bedrooms, upstairs bathroom. Rear garden with patio area, on road parking. EPC: F



HALESOWEN, Brett Young Close£450 pcm - Fees
Situated within a few minutes walk of Halesowen Town Centre and local bus station for buses into Birmingham City Centre. This well presented 1 double bedroom ground floor apartment features a fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, house bathroom with shower, cosy lounge, double glazing, gas central heating and 1 allocated parking space. EPC: B



NEW

HALESOWEN, Newton Court£650 pcm - Fees
1ST MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! A recently converted 3 bedroom 1st floor apartment finished to an extremely high standard and centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, 1 single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC: C



BEARWOOD, St Marys Road£615 pcm - Fees
A 2 bedroom furnished to suit mid terraced house located in this very popular area of Bearwood. The property offers spacious accommodation with 2 reception rooms, kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, 2 double bedrooms. Private rear garden. On road parking. EPC: E



NEW

HALESOWEN, Bloomfield Street West£575 pcm - Fees
A stunning furnished to suit 2 double bedroom cottage style mid terraced property in close proximity to Halesowen town centre. 2 reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen/dining area with appliances, bathroom with shower, private rear garden. On road parking. Not to miss! EPC: D



NEW

ROWLEY REGIS, Clent View£550 pcm - Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent a new build home on a select development. 'Clent View' features homes of 2 double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes. Finished to an exceptional standard. This home features a spacious lounge with patio doors leading to a low maintenance garden, modern fitted kitchen/dining area, bathroom with shower. This property will not be around for long. EPC: B



NEW

HALESOWEN, Bromsgrove Street£525 pcm - Fees
Centrally located to Halesowen and beautifully presented. This lovely end terraced house features a quaint lounge, stunning kitchen, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, beautiful bathroom with a separate shower cubical, large rear garden and on road parking. Available now. EPC: D



STOURBRIDGE, Clifton Street£450 pcm - Fees
This value for money unfurnished terraced house, close to Old Hill Town Centre and Old Hill Train Station. Featuring 2 bedrooms with fitted wardrobes, gas central heating, 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with appliances, downstairs bathroom with shower, on road parking. NO REAR GARDEN. EPC: D



CRADLEY HEATH, Halesowen Road£400 pcm - Fees
Situated within a few minutes walk of Halesowen Town Centre and local bus station for buses into Birmingham City Centre. This well presented 1 double bedroom ground floor apartment features a fitted kitchen with integrated appliances, house bathroom with shower, cosy lounge, double glazing, gas central heating and 1 allocated parking space. EPC: B

Property

Enhanced 1930s home has extensive gardens



THIS substantial property is set in extensive grounds and on the market with agent Taylors for offers in the region of £325,000.

The 1930s three-bedroomed house on Sandyfields Road, Sedgley, has been enhanced. It includes reception hall, sitting room with bay, living room with patio doors to conservatory, breakfast kitchen, utility room, walk-in pantry, lobby, freezer room, separate toilet, bathroom, garage, rear garden. Call (01384) 395555 or see www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk



An impressive executive four-bedroomed house



THIS impressive executive four bedroomed detached house in Wentworth Grove, Perton, near Wolverhampton. It is for sale through Your Move at £294,000.

It has gas central heating and double glazing. There is a hall lounge, separate dining room, conservatory, breakfast kitchen with appliances, utility room (which is part of the garage), en suite shower room to the master bedroom and a further bathroom/WC with a separate shower.

There is an enclosed rear garden with gated side access along with a driveway and double garage.

Contact Your Move on 01902 305665 or visit www.your-move.co.uk



More honours on the way

By Graham Breeze

IT'S been named Supermini Of The Year by one of the country's leading motoring magazines and now the Ford Fiesta has got even better.

It's been two years since I bored all my pals with tales of the amazing one litre engine launched by Ford but now with the arrival of a six-speed dual clutch powershift automatic version things have moved up another gear.

It just doesn't stack up that a 100PS 1.0litre engine can be so punchy and economical at the same time so I quizzed one of Ford's top engine designers who bamboozled me with an explanation that obviously made perfectly good sense to him.

Quite simply the Fiesta remains as Britain's best selling car because it ticks all the

boxes and has the most incredible engine on the market – but how it works remains a complete mystery to a non-techie like me.

In simple terms the 1.0litre EcoBoost engine combines cutting edge technologies, including direct fuel injection, turbocharging and variable valve timing to deliver the power of a larger engine with the fuel efficiency of a smaller one.

There's now six powertrain options emitting less than 100g/km of CO2 emissions which could well add to Ford's honours of International Engine Of The Year for both 2012 and 2013.

There's no question that the new automatic addition is an important move for Ford with the combination of EcoBoost and PowerShift being one of the most advances systems ever launched in such a small car.

On test was the Titanium X 5-door version with a maximum speed of 112mph, 0-62mph in 11.2secs, 57.7mpg on the combined cycle and just 114g/km of CO2 emissions.

You would have to say that at a basic price of £17,795 this Fiesta is a bit pricey and when you add some special paint, a stop/start pack, a navigation system, rear view camera and parking sensors you bump the price up to over £19,500.

The Fiesta is great to drive, rides comfortably and handles nicely. There's minimal roll in corners and plenty of grip. In fact the Fiesta handles as well as any supermini.

I'm a real fan of the Fiesta interior which comes complete with a cockpit-like fascia and easy to find controls. It's a comfortable four seater with good all-round vision but boot space is a little on the disappointing



'The Fiesta is a great drive, rides comfortably and handles nicely. There's minimal roll in

side and was not up to the golf club test. There's loads of seat travel, plenty of support for your back, and two-way steering adjustment. All Fiestas come with stability control and seven airbags, including full-length curtain 'bags and a driver's knee 'bag. The car also received the maximum five-star rating in Euro NCAP crash tests. Deadlocks and a visible vehicle identification number make life difficult for thieves, Automatic headlights, front fogs, rain

sensing wipers, privacy glass, cruise control, heated front seats, all-round electric windows, folding mirrors and a quickclear front screen are standard on the Titanium X.

This Fiesta is a far cry from the ones I drove as company cars and the 1.0litre engine really is the most amazing I have driven.

Expect more honours to go Ford's way with this one.



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11 C4 G Picas 1.6 HDI VTR EGS Blue 21k	£10,495		
59 C4 G Picas 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS Blue 23k	£8,495		
60 C4 G Picas 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS Blue 45k	£8,995		
09 C4 G Picas 1.6 HDI VTR+ EGS Brown 20k	£8,495		
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11 Meriva 1.7 CDTi Exc Auto Silver Lake 15k	£7,295		
11 Meriva 1.7 CDTi Exc Grey 11k	£7,995		
11 Meriva 1.7 CDTi Exc Silver 13k	£8,295		
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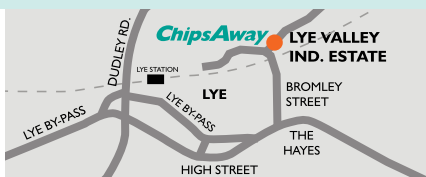
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Brand-new diesel for Mazda2

Mazda confirms its all-new Mazda2 will debut with the SKYACTIV-D 1.5, a brand-new 1.5-litre clean diesel engine, when the convention-challenging carmaker introduces its next-generation B-segment model, to be initially launched in Japan.

First unveiled in March at the Geneva International Motor Show alongside the Mazda Hazumi concept

(the basis for the all-new Mazda2), the SKYACTIV-D 1.5 shares much with its award-winning sibling: The SKYACTIV-D 2.2 clean diesel is available for the Mazda CX-5, Mazda6 and Mazda3.

The SKYACTIV-D 1.5 was developed in the pursuit of ideal combustion despite a very low compression ratio. As a result, the engine boasts outstanding dynamic performance from standstill to its unusually high redline.

New innovations for the small-displacement newcomer to the

SKYACTIV range include an expanded homogenous lean burn range, even less mechanical resistance, and new insulation technology to counter the increased cooling loss associated with a smaller engine. So it's exceptionally efficient and clean, delivering top-class fuel economy and emissions, and will comply with Euro 6 without needing pricey exhaust aftertreatment.

In addition to the SKYACTIV-D 1.5, the all-new Mazda2 will come equipped with the full line-up of SKYACTIV technology.

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3 Home & Services

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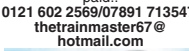
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6 Property

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7
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part time -
general

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ClassifiedAds

8

Motoring

cars over £1500

CHEVROLET AVEO 1.2, 58 reg.

silver, one lady owner, low mileage, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, £2,095 ono. 07711 020059.

FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge, 2010, 66,000 miles, red with white side and roof vinyls. Manual, 1 year tax, 3 months MoT, £5,499 ono. 07540 542694.

FORD C-MAX ZETEC, 2.0, diesel, 2004, blue, alloys, long MoT, taxed, £2,700. 01902 756551. 07812 342207.

HONDA FRV 9,125k, 59 reg, silver, good condition, 6 seats, 1 owner, FSH, MoT March 2015, £9,000. 01902 764454. 07503 150516.

KIA PICANTO 1.1 LS, Auto, 5dr, 07, blue, one owner from new, Full MoT, two months tax, 32,000 miles, £2,250. 01384 638424.

MAZDA MX5 Roadster, red, registered Sep 2009, 11,500 miles only, as new condition, £5,500. 01299 821241.

PRESTIGE

MERCEDES CLS 350

GRAND EDITION

2010, 3 Litre Turbo Diesel.

Silver With Black Leather.

68,000 Miles.

Auto. Climate Control.

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Taxed and MoT.

£14,450 ono.

Telephone 01630 639523

or 07792

879456.

PRESTIGE

PEUGEOT 107 06 reg, black, 5dr, e/w, 12 months tax, CD, 12 months MoT, very good condition, £2,100. 07405 518170, 0121 7222170.

PEUGEOT 107 Milesim 1.0, Ltd Etd 2011, blue, air con, 18.5K, excellent condition, £4,900. 07754 276178 or 01902 606388.

PEUGEOT 307 diesel, HDI, 2004, 73K, 5dr, silver, MoT, tax, FSH, 2 owner, good condition, £1,750. 07838 897643.

PEUGEOT PARTNER 2008, fsh, 12,000 miles, wheelchair access with ramp, excellent condition, £5,200 ono. 07956 932911.

RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE, 2005, 50,400 miles, Tempest blue, air con, fsh, MoT, one owner, tax, £1,895 ono. 07912 305688.

RENAULT KANGOO AUTHENTIC 2008, Wheelchair access, 4 seats, 12 months MoT and tax, 23,600 miles, £5,500. 01902 722263.

SELLING? STILL NOT SOLD? We will buy and collect within 24 hours. Crown Motors 079035 49849 T.

BARGAIN

SKODA FABIA

1.4 PETROL

Tax till end of October.

MoT April 2015.

Very good condition.

New stereo fitted.

Very reliable.

Clean inside and out.

Just been serviced.

£725 ono.

07724 793444, Dudley.

BARGAIN

TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 PREMIUM

EDITION 1.8 reg, white, 24k, tax

March 31 15, 1 owner, excellent condition, £5,950. 07772 158534.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1200 07 MoT'd

12 months and tax, 12 was category C and repaired and inspected 2011, £1,700. 01384 251328.

VAUXHALL CORSA XSI 1.4 3dr

hatchback 61 reg, white, 24k, tax

March 31 15, 1 owner, excellent condition, £5,950. 07772 158534.

cars under £1500

ADVERTISERS ARE

REMINDED

that the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

ALFA ROMEO 1.6 Luco, 2004, 78K, MoT October, silver, £1,200 ono. 012 2709500.

CITROEN XANTIA Diesel, HDI, X reg, 88K, tow bar, excellent condition, long MoT/tax, £895 ono. 07850 0900.

FORD FUSION 2.03 plate, 1400 cc, recent cam belt, gold metallic colour, MoT 04/15, tax 09/14, any trial, £1,200 ono. 01384 864058.

MAXDA EUROS ROADSTER 1994, 1.8 auto, 76,000 miles, new brake disc and pads plus suspension coil springs, paintwork needs slight attention.

£900 ono.

07923 108773.

MERCEDES A140 2000, MoT till November, EW, CL, EM, CD player, £750 ono. 07769 256976.

NISSAN MICRA 1 litre, 2001 reg, 8 months MoT, 3 months tax, 64k, dark green, good condition, £675. 07939 511813.

PEUGEOT 206 Convertible, 04 plate, MoT, taxed, 106k miles, EW, FSH, flame red, £1,295. 01902 885228, 07531 819599.

PEUGEOT 307, black, 5-dr, 03 plate, full MoT, taxed, 106k miles, EW, EM, clean interior, £1,285. 07787 932901. 07966 735454.

RENAULT SCENIC 1.4 MPV 03 reg, 84K, excellent condition, 12 months MoT, new F & R pads, cambelt, £1,195 ono. 07739 267589.

ROVER 200 Vi, 1999, good runner, £275. 01902 663440.

ROVER 75 2001 reg, MoT end of March, tax end of October this year, £750. 01384 350922 or 07428 064828.

SELLING? STILL NOT SOLD? We will buy and collect within 24 hours. Crown Motors 079035 49849 T.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 PETROL

1998, 67,000 miles, silver, electric mirrors, air con, 7 months MoT, 6 months tax, alloys, very good condition.

£600 ono.

07725 563156.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0, 1998, 12 months MoT, 3 months tax, £550 ono. 01902 783809 or 07704 895653.

VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB 1.2

Petrol, 02, blue, 3 door, colour coded, abs, electric windows, s/h, tax, stereo, serviced and MoT'd, superb condition.

£1,000 ono.

07806 806456.

VOLVO S40 maroon, 2002, 71K, low bar, AC, sun roof, FSH, MoT April, excellent condition, first to see will buy, £1400 ono. 07534 173889.

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01630 652993.

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01562 870050 / 01384 234954

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01902 580065

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HONDA CBR600 T reg, tax, MoT, recent service, low mileage, very good condition, mature owner, £1,800 ono. 07943 120733.

HONDA DEAILVILLE, red, 52 plate, 24,000 miles, tax and MoT, excellent condition, owner retiring, £1,950 ono. 07946 393591.

HONDA PCX 125 SCOOTER

2011, silver, only 2,575 miles, stop/start facility, 1 owner, tax, MoT, very good condition.

£1,575.

Telephone 07403 256624

or 01902 737943.

HONDA SILVERWING Interstate, GL500 cc, Y reg, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, lovely condition, £1,200 ono. 07891 956471.

HONDA SILVERWING Interstate, GL500 cc, Y reg, 12 months MoT, 6 months tax, lovely condition, £1,200 ono. 07891 956471.

HONDA VFR800 red, 2000 reg, 1 owner, 28,000 dry miles, taxed and MoT, excellent condition £2,200 ono. 01384 288649.

KAWASAKI ZX6R NINJA 1999 G2 model. Great condition for the year. Months MoT, only 26,000 miles.

£1,600 ono.

07899 846665.

KAWASAKI ZX7R1996, Mature owner, only 5,400 miles from new. Immaculate Full MoT, £2,800 ono. 01562 882787 or 07760 773828.

YAMAHA 500CC T-MAX scooter, grey, 02, 1 owner, very good condition, 3,500 miles, tax, MoT, £3,000. 01299 832646/07808 543629.

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9
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public & legal notices

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Marie Hogg on

01902 731346

or email marie.hogg@

expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

10
Personals

personal

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51, slim, attractive, GSOH,

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someone to share these things

with.

Genuine replies only please.

If possible a recent photo would

be appreciated.

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LOOK

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MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 405297

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JAN slim curvy professional warm, affectionate, looking to fill full time vacancy with similar male who loves cuddles/kisses and bikes for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412167

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discord meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019

ATTRACTIVE slim brunette, 47, N/S, seeks tall, slim male for a cut above the average relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412725

KAREN pretty blonde, short in stature, big personality, keeps fit, loves dogs, seeking honest, caring male who can make me laugh. Nothing too serious just fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412377

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 410127

JEAN petite female who enjoys golf, days out, cosy evenings in, holidays, W/LTM older male in his 60's with a good personality and big heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412359

JULIE really fun loving slim pretty female 38 looking for nice guy to go out with, get to know and hopefully enjoy a relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411517

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box No: 408297

RITA naughty 40's petite pretty female looking for that special man in my life, any age, to get to know and see what happens, you only live once remember! 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410959

DIANE voluptuous curvy and all woman, loves dancing, walking, cosy nights in, W/LTM nice man for friendship, hopefully leading to something more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412321

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SARA bored blonde looking for single gent for fun, chats and meets, looking for someone hearing from you, don't be shy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412055

PROFESSIONAL black lady, likes cooking, music, countryside, seeking honest, reliable gent, possibly farmer for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411763

EMMA petite young looking 31yr old attractive single brunette, loves walking, talking, music, seeks honest romantic 30-40yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412037

ANNABELL, 29 slim sophisticated well travelled interesting sensual fit brunette with lots to offer seeks older male to appreciate and treat me well. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412177

KAREN slim, tall, attractive 36yr old normal female who likes shopping, socialising, nights in/out seeking thoughtful genuine male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412041

KIM 25yrs feminine, pretty, big blue eyes, GSOH, varied interests, likes romantic beach walks, cosy nights in, seeking honest loving man for ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411777

CAROL young 47, caring, loyal, likes music, concerts, cinema, theatre, seeks male with similar interests for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411919

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LUCY beautiful busty bubbly blonde 32yrs, seeking naughty boy to enjoy the fun side of life with, age, status and looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411691

LINDA single and living alone, attractive, sexy, looking, bubbly, W/LTM similar young at heart companion to be close with, enjoy chats and romantic dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411019

WIDOW 68, 5ft 5ins, medium build, attractive, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere, N/S male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411745

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Men seeking women

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KEVIN 53, looking for a friend/partner and a lover. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412869

MAURICE gentleman, 59, gentle, kind, caring, loving, generous, seeks lady with GSOH and similar personality, slim-medium build. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412859

MALE seeking female companion for outings, friendship and holidays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412705

STEPHEN 58, good looking, likes art, travel, seeking female, 50 plus for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412633

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ALAN tall widower, 76, looking for female of similar age who enjoys meals out, holidays, walks and holidays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412261

TALL slim gent, 60, seeks slim, attractive lady for no strings relationship. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 412227

MARK fun loving, easy going, fair hair blue eyes, athletic, tanned, looking for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411989

FIT bubbly male, athletic, blue eyes, short fair hair, easy going, loving, GSOH, seeking female for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411901

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Walk in the Park for first squad

Warwick & Worcester Premier Division 1
The George 247
Sutton Park 157

The first bowls team put Sutton Park to the sword winning by 90 shots with 11 winners out of the 12 games.

The first four of Pete Davenport (21-12), Jamie Dunn (21-13), Paul Greene and Elliot McGuinness (both 21-15) put The George 29 shots in front.

The middle four really turned on the style with Shane Day and Mick McGuinness (both 21-7), Ivan Smout (21-11) and Marc Wilson (21-17) increasing the lead to 71 shots. Wins in the back four by Steve Dicken (21-4), Mark Street (21-16) and Steve Darling (21-19) completed the rout.

South Staffs Premier Division
Short Heath 228
The George 182

The second team went down to a 46 shot defeat at Short Heath. The George had wins from Darren Wood (21-8), Eric Winstone (21-12) and Stewart Meddings (21-19).

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 2
The George 230
Baldwin 160

The third team defeated fellow promotion contenders Baldwin by 70 shots.

A night of emotion for Brummies

EMOTIONS were running high around the terraces at Belle Vue as Birmingham made one last valiant stand in the face of their almost certain demise with a 56-39 defeat on Monday.

The Aces were led by newly appointed skipper Scott Nicholls and soon asserted their dominance over the meeting and stretch their lead to 22-8 after just 5 heats.

Brummies duo Ben Barker and Danny King delivered two hard-fought tactical rides to bring the scores up to 39-26 by Heat 10; but in the end it was no avail.

Birmingham 39: Ben Barker 13, Nico Covatti 10+1, Danny King 8+1, Paul Starke 6, Jason Garity 2, Simon Lambert 0, Bartosz Zmarzlik R/R.

Cresswell target for Albion defence

ALBION are targeting Ipswich's Aaron Cresswell as their top left-back target as they look to rebuild their defence for the club readies itself for the start of the Alan Irvine era.

The Baggies want Cresswell to move to The Hawthorns despite the 24-year-old signing a new three-and-a-half-year contract at Portman Road in December last year.

Irvine is without a recognised full-back in his squad just a week before the start of pre-season training with left-backs Liam Ridgwell and Goran Popov departing at

Football

the end of last season. They also need to recruit new faces at right-back after Steven Reid was released and Billy Jones made a Bosman switch to Sunderland after rejecting the offer of a new deal with Albion.

Cresswell has been tracked by the Baggies for some time and they are now considering tempting the Tractor Boys with an offer.

But the Scouser is unlikely to come cheap as he is contracted to the Sussex club until

2017 and boss Mick McCarthy is under no pressure to offload the player.

The 5ft 7in defender was first watched by the Baggies when he played for Tramere, who he left in 2011 to move to Ipswich.

He has since made 138 appearances for his current club, and has racked up seven goals.

The Baggies have also made contact with Fulham over 2005 'Great Escape' hero Kieran Richardson, who the Cottagers would consider releasing on a free transfer as they look to slash the wage bill at Craven Cottage. But Cresswell currently appears to be

the favoured option. Albion were linked at the weekend with a move for Norwich left-back Martin Olsson, who they enquired about before his move from Blackburn to Carrow Road a year ago, but the Sweden international is not being targeted at the moment.

The Baggies have signed two new faces so far this summer with Craig Gardner and Joleon Lescott arriving as free agents.

They are targeting five more players before the start of the season with Monaco striker Emmanuel Riviere a major target.

Players will be Keane on Roy says Lambert

PAUL LAMBERT hailed his new assistant Roy Keane as a coach his players 'will love working with' as they launched their partnership.

Lambert and Keane headed for a media scrum first to satisfy the huge interest one of the game's most controversial figures continues to generate.

After that came the planning for pre-season in which Keane will now be a major figure following confirmation of his appointment as Lambert's No.2.

It's a role Keane will combine with the same job under former Villa boss Martin O'Neill in the Republic of Ireland camp but there are no fears from Lambert that he will spread himself too thin – or disrupt Villa's training camp with that famous temper.

"Roy has a great knowledge of football, on the coaching side as well, and he'll be a great asset and a big help to everybody here," Lambert said.

"I'm really looking forward to working with him and I'm delighted he's here.

"As a player, he was one of the most accomplished in the Premier League and he's brought that experience gained over many years into his career in coaching and management.

"The players will love working with him.

"Although we never played together, we competed against one another and he's someone for whom I have a lot of time and respect. He has worked under some great managers and he'll be a great help to myself as well."

Keane added: "I am delighted to be joining Aston Villa and I look forward to

Performance will be knockout, says Clarke



Lennox Clarke is looking to put on a knockout performance in the ring against Joe Walsh next month

HALESOWEN'S Lennox Clarke is ready to put in a knockout performance when he faces Joe Walsh at Walsall Town Hall next month.

The super middleweight has recorded a hat-trick of victories since switching from white-collar boxing last November.

The 22 year-old recorded a stunning second-round debut stoppage over James Child on his debut before picking up a points victory over Jody

Meikle in December and a points win over debutant Shaun Law in March.

Ahead of his appearance on EJKO Promotions' 'The Heat Is On' tomorrow, Clarke insists he is ready to deliver a knockout blow to his opponent.

"This is the best I've felt," he told www.uko-boxing.com. "I feel really strong and I'm going out there looking for the stoppage.

"Walsh is more experienced than

me but I saw what my good friend, Ricky Summers did to him last year (third round TKO) and I'll be looking to do the same."

Birmingham super featherweight prospect, Sean 'Show Time' Davis, takes on Bristol's Harvey Hemsley and fellow Brummie, light middleweight, John Hutchinson, takes on the experienced Kieron Gray. Tickets, priced at £30 and £60 Ringside, are available on 0845 111 2900.

Funding will go to setting up new team

DUDLEY Town FC will be able to set up a new under-15s team thanks to a boost from a sports charity.

The Robins have been given a helping hand with a £1,500 Grow the Game grant, from the Football Foundation, the country's largest sports charity.

The grant will go towards the new team in the Midland Junior Premier league for the forthcoming season.

Dave Ferrier – Club Secretary, said: this grant is a great opportunity for a local club like ours to establish new teams, many thanks to the Football Foundation for their continued support.

Paul Thorogood, Chief Executive of the Football Foundation, said: "Congratulations to Dudley Town FC for working with the Birmingham County FA to secure their £1,500 Grow the Game grant which will increase participation in the region as well as support football development in the area."

The Premier League and The FA fund the Grow the Game scheme with £1.5m, which is delivered by the Football Foundation, the nation's largest sports charity. The scheme is designed to increase participation in the national game.

Herd out to revive his Villa career

CHRIS HERD is back in training and ready to revive his stalled career at Villa Park.

The 25-year-old utility player has been unavailable "indefinitely" owing to unspecified personal reasons since March.

The difficulties cost Herd a possible place in Australia's World Cup campaign but his father Willie has confirmed his son is back at Bodymoor Heath and preparing for the new season.

"He obviously had an issue with the club last year but that has been sorted and he is looking forward," said Herd Snr, adding he must make up for lost time. "The most important thing for him is to do well for his club and make up for lost time."



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Players will warm to Roy, says Lambert
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Knockout need
Boxer will be going all out for the win
Page 39



email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Lescott switch is tipped for success

ALBION new-boy Joleon Lescott is being tipped to make a success of crossing the Black Country divide – by two men who did the same.

Ally Robertson and Don Goodman, who both played successfully for the Baggies and Wolves, believe ex-Molineux favourite Lescott can become a Hawthorns hero after making a free-transfer switch from Manchester City.

Lescott, who made 235 appearances for Wolves, will meet his new team mates for the first time on Monday. He will compete with Gareth McAuley and Jonas Olsson for places in Alan Irvine's defence.

Robertson, who played more than 600 times for Albion before captaining Wolves to back-to-back promotions, said: "When I started at Wolves I got a lot of stick, but you get on with your game and, once you start winning, all that is gone."

"If we (Albion) have a bad start and don't win games he will get a bit of stick. But as long as things go well and people can see he's trying, he'll be fine."

Lescott opted for Albion over Hull and Stoke and has attracted some criticism from Wolves fans, but has been largely welcomed by Baggies supporters.

Coaches hunt to take weeks

WOLVES are still weeks away from appointing new coaches – as it emerged they want the same coaching style through the club.

Head of football development Kevin Thelwell and academy manager Gareth Prosser have drawn up a shortlist to replace Under-21s coach Steve Weaver and Under-18s coach Mick Halsall.

Head coach Kenny Jackett, who is taking up to 50 senior professionals in training with assistant Joe Gallen and youth coach Sean Parrish, believes Wolves are still some way off announcing replacements.

But the desire for a 'through line' of approach from Jackett downwards could have been a factor in the departures of Weaver and Halsall.

"It's going to be weeks rather than days, I'd think," said Jackett.

Don't be the forgotten man, Davis is told

THE gauntlet has been thrown down to David Davis to avoid becoming the forgotten man at Wolves.

The challenge comes as the club delayed a decision on loaning out Zeli Ismail.

Davis, who is into the final year of his contract, lost his way after starting last season as a first choice under head coach Kenny Jackett.

Smethwick-born Davis found himself down the pecking order, below less experienced youngsters Jack Price and Lee Evans, alongside player of the year Kevin McDona-

Football

ld. But Jackett insisted it is not too late for the 23-year-old Molineux academy graduate to grab his place back.

"He started last season but lost his place and other people developed," said the boss. "But we've started again, everyone has their front foot on the line and David is one of them, definitely. It's a fresh season and a new chance."

"He's been very well thought of in his years here but just unfortunately lost his place. It's about how he reacts now."

While Wolves have put a decision over Ismail on hold, they will allow Anthony Forde to leave on loan.

Burton Albion, where 20-year-old Ismail impressed from January to May, want to take him back on a temporary basis.

Ismail and Forde have a year left on their contracts but Jackett wants to give the former a chance to impress at Wolves in pre-season.

"My thoughts are to have a look at Zeli in pre-season and do some work with him," said the boss. "I haven't set a deadline, but I'll assess it, make sure he gets the games

he needs and doesn't stay here floating around the edge of it."

Forde was linked with League Two side Stevenage at the weekend as they look to replace Luke Freeman, who has joined Bristol City.

Meanwhile Wolves outcasts Roger Johnson and Jamie O'Hara have been told there is no way back after being banished from first-team pre-season training again.

Jackett confirmed the unwanted players will be separated from the senior group this summer. "Jamie's available for anybody who wants him," he said.

Baggies tracking McCleary

ALBION are tracking Reading winger Garath McCleary as they weigh up possible signings for the new Premier League season.

The Baggies, who tried to sign the Jamaica international from Nottingham Forest in 2012, have again added him to their transfer watchlist at the start of the Alan Irvine era.

Hawthorns officials have yet to open talks with Reading over the 27-year-old, who has a year remaining on his contract and appears likely to move on this summer.

But they have earmarked the Oxford-born player as a potential new recruit, as they target new wideners following the departures of Scott Sinclair, Morgan Amalfitano and Zoltan Gera from last season's squad.

Albion were keen on McCleary two years ago after an impressive spell for Forest but he instead opted to join the Royals, who were also a top-flight club at the time.

He has since made 80 appearances for the Berkshire club and scored nine goals. But with his contract due to expire next summer, Reading look set to cash in.

Squad will be a threat, says Mick

MICK McCarthy greeted Wolves' return to the Championship by tipping his old club to be a "threat" next season.

The former Molineux boss believes the momentum from last season's League One title success will stand Kenny Jackett's side in good stead as they prepare for a return to the second tier.

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IRVINE BUILDING TO BRING SUCCESS

ALBION boss Alan Irvine believes Terry Burton's work as technical director will help him become a Hawthorns success.

Irvine was a shock choice for the Baggies hot-seat after mixed success in his previous managerial assignments at Preston and Sheffield Wednesday.

But the Scot, who will meet his players on Monday when they return for pre-season training, believes the presence of Burton in a new Albion role will help him thrive.

"The biggest difference here is that there is a great structure and support in place," said Irvine.

"We have a technical director in Terry and he will deal with a lot of things that would take a manager off the training ground – dealing with players' contracts and with agents."

Important

"These are all things that take you away from the most important job, which is working with players."

They take you away from being able to analyse your own performance and analyse the opposition as thoroughly as you'd like to.

"The title is head coach and the main part of the job is to coach, but you can't coach the squad of players without being involved in their management."

"Obviously the role means I will pick the team, and I will be the person trying to identify players with the help of Terry and other members of the staff."

"It will be like a manag-

Football

er's job but without some of the extra responsibility in terms of dealing with contracts, agents and things like that, so I can have a lot more focus in terms of what happens on the training ground and on the pitch."

Albion have announced two more pre-season friendlies for their youngsters with an Albion XI due to take on Walsall and Nuneaton Town.

The Baggies' development squad will host the Saddlers in a behind-closed-doors clash at the Albion training ground on Wednesday, July 23 with the kick-off time to be confirmed.

Albion's young guns will visit Conference Premier outfit Nuneaton Town on Tuesday, July 29 (7.45pm).

The team is likely to be made up entirely of Baggies academy players.

Meanwhile, Albion legend Tony Brown has sent a rallying call for the club to back new boss Alan Irvine with more signings like Joleon Lescott.

Brown called on fans to put aside their doubts – and on the club to give Irvine the players to help him succeed.

Whiley aims to net third Grand Slam title



Jordanne Whiley from Halesowen is heading for Wimbledon with a third grand slam in her sights

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley begins her bid for a third successive Grand Slam title on Friday.

The British No.1 and Japan's Yui Kamiji take on Germany's Katharina Kruger and Sharon Walraven of the Netherlands in their women's wheelchair tennis semi-final at Wimbledon.

Whiley won the first Grand Slam title of her career at the Australian Open and Roland Garros when she

and Kamiji defeated Dutch duo Marjolijn Buis and Jiske Griffioen.

Whiley and Kamiji followed up with another tense victory in the final at Roland Garros last month, when they edged out the defending champions, Griffioen and Aniek van Koot, the same Dutch duo that beat Whiley and Kamiji in last year's Wimbledon final.

"It's a good draw for me and Yui at and after Melbourne and Roland

Garros we have a lot of confidence," said Whiley, who is currently at a career best No. 2, behind Kamiji in the women's doubles world rankings, courtesy of their victory in Paris.

Whiley is aiming for her third Wimbledon final, having partnered fellow Brit Lucy Shuker to finish runners-up to Griffioen and van Koot in 2012 before the British duo went on to win the women's doubles bronze medal at the London Paralympics.

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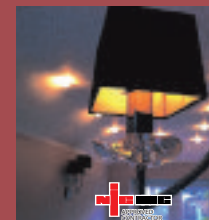
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